

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT
ANNUAL REPORT
2004





Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor

a message from

Chief Justice Clifford W. Taylor

As our judicial branch looks back on 2004, we realize that it was a year of great challenges and equally great achievements.

In December 2004, after four years of hard work, a team led by the Court's Judicial Information Systems division completed a statewide judicial computer network. In the past, many courts lacked the technology to submit criminal dispositions electronically and submitted that data on paper to the Michigan State police. As a result, a criminal disposition might not appear on the state's criminal history database for a week or more after the disposition. With the new network, data is now updated daily and in many cases immediately, with resulting benefits for law enforcement.

Also in 2004, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the administrative agency of the Michigan Supreme Court, concluded a year-long statewide review of probate courts' handling of conservatorship cases. While the review revealed that the vast majority of probate courts were following the applicable law and court rules, SCAO did identify and address problems in a few courts. The review heightened courts' awareness of the issues surrounding conservatorship cases and demonstrated the limits placed on courts by the Estates and Protected Individuals Code.

Courts continued to focus on issues affecting children and families. On November 23, Michigan family courts observed the second annual "Michigan Adoption Day" to call attention to the many foster children in our state who need permanent homes. On the same day, the Supreme Court also announced the creation of the Children's Community Support Network, which connects volunteers with opportunities to help foster children.

Judicial and public education remained a top priority. The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center welcomed thousands of students and other visitors, while the Michigan Judicial Institute held over 50 seminars to help judges and court staff provide the best possible service to the public. On May 12, the Supreme Court celebrated the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision with a public presentation by Ernest G. Green, former Assistant Secretary of Labor and one of the "Little Rock Nine" who integrated the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

These and other achievements of Michigan's judicial branch are highlighted in this annual report, which I invite you to read. We have also included statistics about our courts' activities and caseloads. More detailed information is available at <http://www.courts.mi.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/statistics.htm#annual>.

The past year also saw the passing of a great jurist and grand lady, former Chief Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley. She was the exemplary public servant: dedicated, tireless, and committed to the highest ideals of the law. Hers is the benchmark we all strive to reach.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clifford W. Taylor".

Clifford W. Taylor
Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court

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HIGHLIGHTS

CONSERVATORSHIP REVIEW

In December 2004, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) concluded a statewide review of probate courts' handling of conservatorship cases.

The review was prompted by the Michigan Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) October 2003 report, "Performance Audit of Selected Probate Court Conservatorship Cases." The report, which focused on selected conservatorship cases from five probate courts (Calhoun, Huron, Jackson, Washtenaw, and Wayne), suggested that the courts were doing a poor job of overseeing conservatorship cases. The audit procedures included examination of probate courts' and conservators' files and activities primarily for the period October 1, 1998 through December 31, 2001. The audit concluded that:

1. The assertions contained in conservators' annual accountings filed with probate courts were generally not accurate or valid.
2. Probate courts' procedures and controls for administering and monitoring conservatorship cases were generally not effective.

In its preliminary response to the OAG report, SCAO committed to reviewing each file covered by the report and to taking any appropriate corrective action, including referral to the proper authorities for criminal prosecution and reporting attorney conservators to the Attorney Grievance Commission.

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SCAO's interim report, issued on May 21, 2004, included each conservatorship case examined in the OAG performance audit. In the report, which is available at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/Interim-Conservatorship-Response.pdf>, SCAO identified a number of cases with suspected improprieties, mainly cases in which conservators had either taken loans from the ward's estate without court approval or had obtained the court's approval for the loan, but had failed to pay it back. In these cases, the conservator was most often the ward's parent. At least three such cases were referred for possible criminal prosecution.

Apart from these instances, however, the interim review did not find widespread misappropriation of funds. SCAO concluded that, in many instances, conservators were not trying to misappropriate funds or abuse the system, but simply did not realize what was required of them. SCAO found that the courts covered by the OAG report, with the exception of Washtenaw County Probate Court, complied with statutory requirements for monitoring conservatorship cases; in fact, the OAG report did not find any issues with cases from Jackson County Probate Court. In large part, cases that were identified by the

CONSERVATORSHIPS, *continued*

OAG audit as instances of possible wrongdoing turned out to be situations where conservators simply did not have enough background or training to carry out their responsibilities.

In addition to reviewing the cases covered by the Auditor General's report, SCAO also committed to a statewide review of the remainder of Michigan's 83 probate courts. Moreover, SCAO monitored the reorganization of Washtenaw County Probate Court, which had a change in leadership after the initial SCAO review revealed problems with a number of conservatorship cases, as well as systemic problems in the court. In some cases, conservators either took money from wards' funds without court permission, or had the court's permission to do so but failed to repay the money. Thanks to a sweeping review of court practices and individual cases, the Washtenaw Probate Court, under the leadership of Chief Judge Archie Brown and Chief Judge Pro Tem Donald E. Shelton, recovered over \$290,000 for court wards in 2004. Corrective action included 11 referrals for criminal prosecution.



In conducting the statewide review, SCAO had the full cooperation of the state's probate court judges and staff, who appreciated the opportunity to improve their practices regarding oversight of conservators. SCAO reviewed both court procedures and a random sampling of each court's conservatorship cases.

For the 78 probate courts not covered in the original OAG audit:

- Twenty-seven courts received a "satisfactory" rating (completed June 2004).
- Thirty-nine courts were notified that SCAO had identified limited problem areas. Each of these courts was directed to respond with a corrective action plan within 30 days, stating what actions the court would take and when the court would address the issues identified in the review. All 39 courts have complied with SCAO's directive. SCAO followed up with each court to ensure their compliance with these corrective action plans (completed September 2004).
- Ten courts were identified as needing management assistance from SCAO. SCAO contacted the chief judge of each court to describe problem areas identified during the review. SCAO then provided on-site management assistance to each court to correct these problems. This phase was completed in November 2004.
- Two courts were identified as having more serious problem areas that merited a compliance audit, which included bringing in outside auditors to review the courts' practices. This phase was completed in October 2004.

In sum, the statewide review revealed that the vast majority of probate courts were either following the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC) and had appropriate procedures, or had minor issues that were quickly corrected following SCAO's review. All probate courts where SCAO identified problem areas now have definitive corrective action plans in place to address any deficiencies. SCAO will continue to follow up with the courts to ensure continued compliance with those plans. In addition, SCAO continues to monitor the two courts that were the subject of compliance audits.

SCAO is also developing training materials to help conservators fulfill their responsibilities. The vast majority of conservators—about 75 percent—are court wards’ family members. Most conservators have no professional training and no experience that would prepare them for managing an estate. Accordingly, SCAO will make these training materials available to state probate courts and post them on the Supreme Court’s web site.

In addition, SCAO reviewers compiled a list of “best practices” for probate courts, available at <http://courts.mi.gov/scao/resources/bestpractice/conservatorship.htm>, to improve oversight of conservatorship cases. SCAO will also propose court rule changes to provide additional safeguards of conservatorship assets. SCAO’s ongoing assistance to probate courts will include training for judges and court staff with an emphasis on fraud detection and periodic reviews of cases and court procedures.

SCAO’s final report is available at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/publications/reports/Final-Conservatorship-Response.pdf>.

Thanks to the statewide review, all probate courts are now more aware of the issues surrounding conservatorship cases and are more prepared to take appropriate action to ensure that conservators follow EPIC and applicable court rules.

In addition, the preliminary and statewide reviews both demonstrated that under EPIC there are limits to court review of conservatorship files. EPIC, which became effective in 2000, places the burden on interested parties—not the courts—to raise accounting issues and notify the court of suspected wrongdoing by conservators. This approach is effective and helps preserve estate assets where there are interested parties who are vigilant on the protected individual’s behalf. In many situations, however, the protected individual does not have relatives or friends who are willing or able to take on that oversight role. Individuals in those situations are particularly vulnerable. Too, as was demonstrated in a number of Washtenaw County cases in which a parent wrongly appropriated funds from a child’s estate, even where interested persons are involved, they may not have the protected individual’s best interests at heart. The OAG audit, which included OAG reviewers going to conservators’ offices to review their files, revealed issues with some cases that would not be disclosed in the limited review that EPIC imposes on probate courts. EPIC’s limitations are for the Legislature to consider.

The vast majority of probate courts were following EPIC or had minor issues.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

As of December 2004, there were over 19,000 children in foster care in Michigan due to abuse or neglect. Child Welfare Services (CWS), a division of SCAO, helps courts address the needs of these children and those of families in the child welfare system. The division’s responsibilities include training judges and court staff, helping courts expedite permanent placements for children, and monitoring a special court docket for missing foster children. CWS also supports events that educate the public about child welfare issues, such as Michigan Adoption Day.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES, *continued***Michigan Adoption Day**

In Michigan, thousands of foster children lack permanent homes. As of December 31, 2004, there were 12,206 children who were temporary court wards in Michigan—children who are made wards of the court as a result of child protective proceedings. As of the same date, there were 19,314 children in foster care in Michigan. For most children in foster care, the goal is returning to a safe and stable home. But a significant number of children (4,445 as of December 31, 2004) are permanent court wards with a goal of adoption. To draw attention to their plight, and to educate the public about the adoption process, the Michigan Supreme Court co-sponsored the second annual Michigan Adoption Day on November 23, 2004. According to National Adoption Day organizers, Michigan's was the largest Adoption Day in the nation. Forty-two counties participated and 339 children were adopted. The adoption ceremonies included parties for the adopted children and their families, gifts for the children, and informational sessions for the public.

**Children's Community Support Network**

Unfortunately, statistics indicate that, after age 11, the likelihood that a foster child will be adopted drops dramatically. As of September 30, 2004, 2,981 children aged 16 and older were in foster care. Most of these children will simply "age out" of the foster care system. Over half of "aged-out" former foster children will find themselves back in the court system within two years, and they are at high risk for substance abuse, teen pregnancy, poverty, and other negative outcomes.

To address this problem, the Children's Community Support Network (CCSN) was launched on Michigan Adoption Day 2004. CCSN will identify volunteers and match them with the needs of various organizations, such as the Family Independence Agency (FIA), private child service organizations, and the courts. More information about CCSN is available on the "One Court of Justice" website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/ccsn>.

**Court Improvement Program**

In child protective cases, the goal is to either reunite the child with the family or find the child another permanent home. If courts are not functioning properly, children simply languish in the system. The Court Improvement Program, which is supported by federal funds, assesses Michigan courts' handling of child protection cases. An initial assessment of the courts was completed in 1997. A reassessment, which includes review of court files and interviews with stakeholders, began in 2003, continued throughout 2004, and will be completed in March 2005. As a result of these assessments, the Michigan Supreme Court and CWS have formed work groups to address key issues, such as barriers to adoption, duties of the lawyer-guardian ad litem, foster care licensing, and the judiciary's compliance with federal regulations that affect funding.

Absent Parent Protocol

The Absent Parent Protocol was developed in 2003 to address the large number of child protection cases where only one parent is involved in the court proceedings. In 2004, the protocol, which was developed through collaboration with the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi), CWS, and the Friend of the Court Bureau, was updated to clarify issues related to the definition of legal fathers and to formalize a new partnership with the Office of Child Support (OCS). The partnership with OCS will improve the ability of foster care and protective services staff to locate absent parents. In early 2005, the updated protocol will be distributed to courts and service providers throughout Michigan.

Lawyer-Guardian ad Litem Training

In 2003, SCAO and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice created a protocol detailing the powers and duties of lawyer guardians ad litem (L-GAL), attorneys who represent children in child protection proceedings. This protocol was distributed to all family divisions of circuit court and is available on the "One Court of Justice" website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/mji/resources/lgal/LGALprotocol.htm>. In 2004, CWS and MJi, the educational division of SCAO, developed a curriculum based on the 2003 protocol. Supported by funding from the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, CWS trained almost 700 L-GALs from 42 counties. The curriculum also includes special topics such as the Absent Parent Protocol and Title IV-E regulations. Training is scheduled through 2006.



Federal Reviews

In March 2004, Michigan underwent a federal audit regarding administration of the Title IV-E Program. Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides states with federal funding to pay for foster care programs for abused or neglected children. In 2003, Michigan received approximately \$248 million dollars in Title IV-E funds and a similar amount in 2004. Michigan failed both the March 2004 audit and a 2002 audit performed by the federal department of Child and Family Services. The state could lose millions of dollars in foster care funding if it does not pass the next round of reviews. In 2004, CWS collaborated with FIA to address issues raised in the federal reviews and to appeal the audits. CWS and FIA also worked together on training court staff and others to meet federal requirements for court orders. The Michigan Supreme Court and CWS have been meeting regularly throughout the year with FIA regarding the appeal FIA has filed for cases determined to be ineligible for Title IV-E funding.

In the wake of the federal reviews, CWS convened a legislative workgroup in April 2004 to address features in Michigan law that could potentially jeopardize Michigan's federal funding. On June 22, 2004, Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Maura Corrigan and Justice Elizabeth Weaver, who is Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, appeared before the House and Senate Judiciary Committees to present an overview of the workgroup's proposals. The Justices requested that legislation based on those proposals be drafted and enacted by December 2004. Senate Bills 1440, 1441, and 1444 and House Bill 6310 were signed by Governor Granholm on December 21, 2004. The new legislation includes several provisions that address requirements in the Title IV-E regulations.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES, *continued***Children Absent Without Legal Permission**

Circuit courts throughout Michigan have special dockets for foster children who are missing from their court-ordered placements, often referred to as Absent Without Legal Permission (AWOLP). In 2002, following the death of a 15-year-old runaway from foster care, the Supreme Court directed all Michigan circuit courts to develop these special dockets. CWS monitors courts' progress in finding AWOLP children. In 2004, 787 children were reported missing, including 72 who were missing twice and 17 who were missing three times. In 79 percent of the cases, the child was located. Several courts have been especially innovative in locating missing children and addressing their needs, including the reasons they run away from foster care. In 2005, CWS will oversee a best practices symposium, including family court judges and court personnel, to share these ideas.

Foster Care Review Board

CWS oversees the Foster Care Review Board Program (FCRB), which the Legislature created in 1985 to review cases of abused or neglected children in foster care. FCRB volunteers provide an objective look at the roles that the courts, FIA, and private agencies play in the system. FCRB also makes findings and recommendations about permanency planning and presents these recommendations to the Judiciary, the Executive Branch, and the Legislature. In addition, local boards also hold appeal hearings when foster parents object to removal of children from the foster home.

In 2004, FCRB conducted approximately 2,500 reviews affecting 1,971 children. In 2004, FCRB received 175 phone requests for appeals and conducted 142 appeals. Program representatives reconciled the remaining appeals without hearings.

FRIEND OF THE COURT BUREAU

Michigan's Friend of the Court (FOC) offices enforce court orders regarding child support, parenting time, and child custody. The Friend of the Court Bureau (FOCB), a division of SCAO, works with and on behalf of the local FOC offices in Michigan's 83 counties.

Child Support Collections

The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, which reviewed all states' child support collections for FY 2003, reported in 2004 that Michigan's child support collections totaled \$1,403,849,016. Michigan ranked fourth in the United States in collections, behind California, Texas and Ohio. Michigan's collections per full-time equivalent employee in 2003 were \$479,129–\$118,283 higher than the national average.



In 2004, thanks to a cooperative effort between the judiciary and the state Office of Child Support, the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) collected \$15,131,717 in past due child support, significantly reducing Michigan's child support arrearage. FIDM uses the statewide Michigan Child Support Enforcement System, known as MiCSES, to locate the bank accounts of parents who have failed

to pay support. FIDM not only helps custodial parents and children; it also increases Michigan's share of federal incentive funding, which is distributed on the basis of each state's overall success in child support collection.

The Michigan Child Support Enforcement System (MiCSES)

As reported in the 2003 Annual Report, MiCSES, Michigan's statewide child support computer system, won federal certification in November 2003. This achievement, which federal officials called the "Michigan Miracle," saved the state from crippling penalties: the loss of almost \$150 million in federal funding. (The federal government reimburses an uncapped two-thirds of Michigan's annual child support budget). The partnership that completed the MiCSES conversion included representatives of SCAO, FOC offices, county prosecutors, and officials from FIA's Office of Child Support.

In August 2004, the "Michigan Miracle" received national recognition. At the invitation of the National Child Support Enforcement Association (NCSEA), four members of the MiCSES leadership, including the director of the FOCB, appeared at NCSEA's annual conference in Palm Desert, California, and conducted a workshop on how to form and maintain an effective partnership.

MiCSES is still a work in progress, however. Because of time constraints, the state was not able to adapt the federal design to Michigan user's business needs. As a result, MiCSES is a less effective enforcement tool than the systems that FOC offices relinquished in order to cooperate with the conversion.

Accordingly, in 2004, FOCB focused on making MiCSES more effective and user-friendly. There will be no major improvements, however, without increased funding. As of December 2004, the FY 2005 appropriation for MiCSES (\$54.4 million) is expected to be largely exhausted on maintenance and changes imposed by new legislation. The MiCSES leadership has requested a supplemental appropriation to support software improvements for the users. It is hoped that a supplemental appropriation for MiCSES will be approved later in the fiscal year.



Prisoner Support Adjustment Project

A 2004 study of all Michigan prisoners who owe child support found that incarcerated parents owed nearly \$350,000,000 on support orders that were issued in more than 15,000 cases. Even though most of those prisoners are indigent and will remain so while incarcerated, support is still charged on 9,000 of those cases. Eighty-five percent of the continuing orders require payments of over \$50 per month. Many prisoner-parents do not know that support charges continue to accrue unless the orders are modified, and that the law bars retroactive modification. In addition, incarcerated parents face many procedural and physical barriers to modifying their child support. As a result, many former prisoners find themselves burdened by child support arrearages that are difficult or impossible to pay. Faced with that burden, many of them avoid the child support system—and, worse, become further alienated from their children.

FRIEND OF THE COURT BUREAU, *continued*

In September 2004, after receiving a \$100,000 Special Improvement Project Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, FOCB initiated the Prisoner Support Adjustment Project. The project's goal is to prevent released prisoners from having impossible-to-pay arrearages. With realistic child support obligations, prisoners will be more likely to pay future support and to involve themselves in their children's lives.

The project allows prisoners to participate in support modification hearings via videoteleconferencing. With prisoner participation, judges have enough information to set realistic support amounts based on the prisoner's assets and ability to pay. The project also includes prospective support orders that go into effect upon a prisoner's release. Law students from clinics at the Michigan State University College of Law and the Wayne State University Law School provide pro bono representation.

Legislation Package

In 2004, FOCB took a leading role in working with the Michigan legislature to provide some relief to parents with insurmountable child support debts. New debt-relief legislation allows parents to work through the courts to develop a repayment plan that, when fully executed, will reduce the support debt to a manageable level. Another new law allows the courts to suspend the assessment of surcharges when a support payer is paying in good faith.

A third new law prohibits making child support retroactive in paternity cases when the mother has delayed making a request for support. The law also allows the court to suspend some support charges upon the marriage of parents who are the parties in a paternity case. Another bill creates processes for establishing and changing support obligations more quickly.

The 2004 legislation also provides funding to increase FOC services related to enforcing parenting time and custody orders, and to fund the enforcement of bench warrants.

Mediation

Domestic relations litigation is known to have a traumatic effect on families, especially children. In 2004, the Supreme Court initiated two pilot projects to encourage families to use mediation as an alternative to litigation. Chief Justice Maura Corrigan instructed the Community Dispute Resolution Program Centers to mediate post-judgment parenting time disputes. The goals of the project are to help parents resolve their conflicts and to encourage cooperative parenting. Seven counties were selected to participate in the pilot project and SCAO provided training to over 80 volunteer mediators.

The second mediation pilot project initiated by Chief Justice Corrigan makes use of some unique interactive websites. The websites encourage parents to establish a co-parenting relationship and to focus on their children's needs. Indiana attorney Charles Asher, creator of the websites and an experienced domestic relations mediator, has worked closely with SCAO staff to establish this pilot project in Kent County.

**Interactive
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Other Activities

Grievance reviews. FOCB reviews all grievances that customers file with FOC offices. In 2004, FOCB developed an internal procedure for tracking those grievances and responses. The process will help FOCB to both address individual complaints and determine whether the grievance reveals a problem that requires policy modifications, either within an individual FOC office or for all FOC offices statewide.

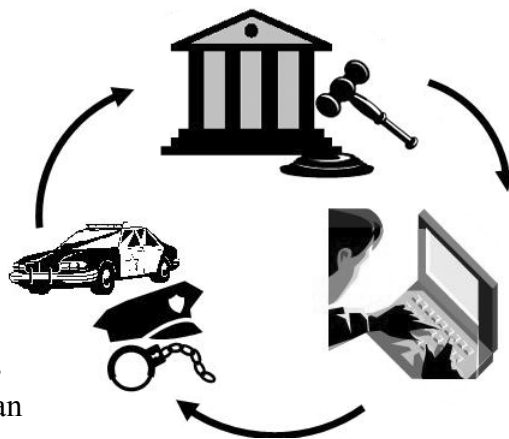
Work First funding cut. The State of Michigan's budget problems and the federal government's new restrictions on Welfare to Work dollars drastically reduced funding for the Michigan Works! Agencies and their *Work First* Non-Custodial Parent Program. As a result, in 2004, Michigan Works! was forced to discontinue several grants that county FOC offices had used to refer unemployed non-custodial parents to *Work First*, which provides employment counseling, training, and placement services. The funding cutbacks also made it difficult for county FOC offices to provide meaningful statistics on *Work First* referrals. Because of this, as of October 1, 2004, SCAO relieved the FOC offices of reporting this data.

Access and Visitation grant. SCAO administers Michigan's federal Access and Visitation Grant, which provides federal funding for state programs to improve non-custodial parents' access to their children. In 2004, 21 Michigan FOC offices received a total of \$281,813 in Access and Visitation grant funding. In 2004, a total of 1,316 individuals received services from Access and Visitation Programs. Many of the counties combined a supervised parenting-time program with counseling and/or a parent education program.

COURT TECHNOLOGY

Judicial Network Project

The Judicial Network Project, which allows Michigan trial courts to report felony dispositions electronically to a state law enforcement database, was near completion in December 2004. As of December 31, 2004, 96 percent of adult felony and 90 percent of juvenile felony dispositions were reported electronically from the courts to the Michigan State Police and Secretary of State. Electronic reporting allows courts to update criminal history information daily and often immediately, with resulting benefits to law enforcement.



In the past, many courts lacked the technology necessary to submit electronic reports and instead provided paper reports to the Michigan State Police. The information had to be entered manually by State Police staff. As a result, updating criminal histories could take a week or more.

To address this problem, the Michigan Supreme Court initiated the Judicial Network Project in 2001. SCAO's Judicial Information Systems Division led the project, assisted by the Michigan State Police, the Michigan Department of Information Technology, the Trial Court Services Division of SCAO, and county and municipal governments. Also involved were SBC, EDS, Dell, and over 40 other private contractors.

COURT TECHNOLOGY, *continued*

The annual budget for the four-year project averaged \$2.3 million. Funding came from National Criminal History Improvement Program grants and the Judicial Technology Improvement Fund (JTIF), an annual funding source in the Supreme Court's budget supported by court fees. Also supporting the project was a portion of the penalty money returned to the State of Michigan after the federally-mandated Child Support Enforcement System was successfully implemented under the leadership of Chief Justice Maura Corrigan.

It is anticipated that by, mid-January 2005, hardware installation and network connectivity will be completed in all but five court locations.

JTIF will be used primarily to fund the ongoing support of the network. The fund will also expand into other applications for data warehousing, payment of traffic tickets and filing court documents over the Internet.

Data Warehouse

In 2004, SCAO continued to develop a data warehouse, which will allow the judicial branch to collect information about pending and closed cases throughout Michigan.

The state's 251 trial court locations use 41 different case management systems distributed on 150 different hardware platforms. As a result, courts have difficulty sharing case information with each other and with other branches of government. This inability to communicate creates an information void about defendants in criminal cases and others involved in the Michigan justice system.



Starting in 2002, SCAO began using JTIF money to add a judicial data warehouse to the existing state data warehouse. The data warehouse will give state trial judges access to a statewide name index with associated detail data to identify pending and closed cases in other courts. SCAO will be able to generate statistical and trend information from the data warehouse.

In 2003, a prototype design was tested and accepted using data from Isabella and Saginaw counties. In 2004, the project was expanded to include the mid-Michigan counties of Bay, Clinton, Genesee, Gratiot, Midland and Shiawassee. In 2005, the data warehouse will include courts in an additional 13 counties.

E-Ticket Payment

Starting in 2004, traffic tickets can be paid online under another JTIF project. The 62A District Court in Wyoming is the pilot site for the e-ticket project and has been in operation since February 2004. By going to <https://e.courts.michigan.gov>, which is part of the Michigan.gov website, users can:

- post payments to a court's case management system;
- use the state's secure credit card processing application; and
- pay multiple tickets to different courts with one credit card transaction.

Because of changes in the operational environments for hosting and credit card processing, the e-ticket project could not be expanded to include other sites in 2004. However, 10 additional sites will be added in 2005.

E-Filing

Lawyers and lay people will be able to file court documents from their computers under another judicial branch technology project, known as e-Filing. In 2004, two courts (Ottawa County Circuit Court and Eastpointe District Court) began offering e-Filing on a limited basis.

In the Ottawa Circuit program, attorneys subscribe to an e-Filing service. Documents submitted to the service are printed by the court clerk and then manually processed. Only attorney subscribers and designated court staff have access to the electronic file. In Wayne County, a private vendor provides electronic service of pleadings for the court's asbestos docket. This electronic service has eliminated paper copies of court documents and improved service for all asbestos docket participants.

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To make it possible for all state courts to offer e-Filing, in 2004 the Supreme Court began work on an Enterprise e-Filing Manager (EFM). The EFM will interface with executive branch agencies and vendors that already provide electronic service of pleadings. In addition to importing data from those sources, the EFM will interact and exchange information with all state courts' case and docket management systems.

In November 2004, the 38th District Court in Eastpointe became the first to use the EFM for general civil cases in the Eastpointe District Court. In 2005, the Michigan Court of Appeals will implement the EFM for appeals from the Michigan Public Service Commission. SCAO's Judicial Information Systems Division will evaluate these two pilot projects in 2005 to determine whether and how to expand e-Filing.

THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE: PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Drug Treatment Courts

Criminal offenders who are addicted to alcohol or drugs frequently cycle in and out of the justice system. Traditionally, courts punished offenders without addressing their underlying addictions. As a result, offenders went on to commit more crimes related to their drug and alcohol use.

Drug treatment courts seek to break that cycle by treating the offender's addiction. This approach, often described as "therapeutic jurisprudence," focuses on treatment. Drug treatment court participation is limited to non-violent offenders. Participants must enter a guilty plea and participate in court-supervised treatment and other services. While in the program, participants must also submit to random drug and alcohol testing. Offenders who violate the terms of their agreement with the court may be punished by incarceration, based on their guilty plea.



PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS, *continued*

In 2004, Michigan had 49 operating drug treatment courts and an additional 15 in the planning stages. These include programs for adults, juveniles, families, and drivers arrested for operating a vehicle under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Funding for Michigan's drug treatment courts comes from many sources, but two major grants provide the bulk of funding. Federal Byrne grant money is administered through the Office of Drug Control Policy and SCAO. SCAO also administers funding from the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program. Michigan drug treatment courts that receive funding from either grant program must comply with standards set by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Family Dependency Courts

Parental substance abuse has long been acknowledged as either the primary reason or a significant contributing factor in many child welfare cases. According to research compiled by the Child Welfare League, 85 percent of states listed poverty and substance abuse as the top problems in their child protection caseload. Children with substance-abusing parents are four times more likely to be neglected, and are more likely to remain in foster care, than children whose parents do not abuse alcohol or drugs. In 2004, staff from SCAO's Trial Court Services and CWS divisions worked with a state-level interdepartmental team to improve substance abuse services for parents involved in child welfare cases. Also in 2004, two family drug treatment courts began operations and two more were planned for 2005. In 2005, SCAO will provide courts with resource materials to create more family drug treatment courts.

Sobriety Courts

Sobriety courts, also known as DUI courts, work with offenders who have been charged with driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. As a problem-solving court, DUI courts focus on the underlying drug or alcohol dependency, rather than looking only at the current driving offense. DUI courts make up nearly 30 percent of the total number of drug treatment courts in the state of Michigan. In 2004, SCAO received a federal grant from the Office of Highway Safety Planning to conduct a two-year project evaluating how effective these courts are in reducing repeated alcohol-related driving offenses. Selection of participating courts and data collection will begin early in 2005.

**Drug Treatment Court Legislation**

In 2004, the state Legislature enacted a package of bills governing drug treatment court criteria and operations; the bills were signed into law on July 21, 2004 and will take effect on January 1, 2005. In addition to other features, the legislation:

- Defines "drug treatment court" as a court-supervised treatment program for offenders who abuse or are dependent upon any controlled substance or alcohol.
- Sets essential characteristics for drug treatment courts, including integration of alcohol treatment or other drug treatment services with justice system case processing.

- Sets conditions for participants; for example, a “violent offender” is not eligible.
- Provides for screening of potential participants, including a complete review of the offender’s criminal history and assessment of the risk the offender poses to him/herself, others, or the community.
- Provides that a participant’s statements, or other information obtained through drug treatment court participation, are confidential.
- Sets requirements for the services drug treatment courts must provide to participants.

The legislation also calls for SCAO to assess drug treatment courts’ performance. To that end, SCAO began developing an automated drug treatment court case management system (DCCMS) in 2004. DCCMS will enable courts to report case outcomes to SCAO and to evaluate their own performance compared to other Michigan drug treatment courts. Once completed, the system will be maintained by the state and made available to all Michigan drug treatment courts.

COLLECTIONS/FEE REFORM

Streamlined Fee System

State governments, including Michigan’s, are struggling to maintain services in the face of repeated budget cuts. Michigan’s judicial branch is acutely aware of the state’s financial constraints. As Chief Justice Maura Corrigan said at an April 2004 hearing before the Senate Budget Committee, “While our [judicial branch] budget is a small one ... less than 1 percent of the gross state budget, our responsibilities in this branch are tremendous. And ... we are keenly aware of our responsibility to find revenue sources, as well as cut costs.”



As part of the FY 2004 budget cycle, the Supreme Court, through SCAO, proposed simplifying the system of criminal assessments and costs and increasing civil filing fees. SCAO’s proposal involved the creation of two new funds, the Justice System Fund and the Civil Filing Fee Fund, which are distributed to many state departments and programs in accordance with statutory formulas. These funds simplified the processes for handling and transmitting receipts at local trial courts and resulted in increased state restricted revenues, which have been used to replace general fund dollars. In the Judiciary budget, these proposals provided restricted revenues to replace \$11.2 million of general fund in FY 2004 and another \$2.5 million in FY 2005. Statutory revisions based on SCAO’s proposal went into effect on October 1, 2003.

As a result, in 2004, the judicial branch collected \$69.3 million in revenue for the Justice System Fund. This amount exceeded the projected collections total of \$68.3 million. Revenue collected for the Civil Filing Fee Fund totaled \$37,187, 711, slightly below the projected amount of \$37,455,000.

COLLECTIONS/FEE REFORM, continued**Collections**

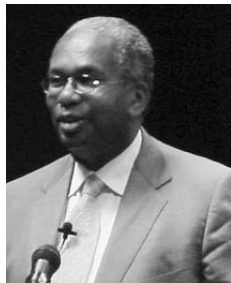
Improving collection of court-ordered financial sanctions is a top priority for the Michigan judiciary.

Steps SCAO took in 2004 to improve court collections include the following:

- SCAO convened a Collections Advisory Committee to develop a statewide strategy for improving court collections; committee members include judges and a court administrator.
- Programs and data collection worksheets were developed for on-site collections reviews. SCAO and the courts will use the data to assess their success with collections. Supreme Court finance staff will also use the information to improve audit procedures and identify courts for on-site collections reviews.
- SCAO convened a workgroup of court administrators to suggest improvements in collection management information.
- Software was developed for district and circuit courts that notifies defendants of outstanding balances with supplemental mailings and helps locate defendants who have not paid.
- Making collections from prisoner accounts for payment toward fines and costs more effective, SCAO developed a program that will match circuit court cases with non-restitution balances to a Department of Corrections file of prisoners.
- SCAO provided direct technical assistance to trial courts.
- A simplified process for intercepting state tax refunds, and taking other steps to collect outstanding fines and costs through the Department of Treasury, is being developed.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT LEARNING CENTER

The Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, located on the first floor of the Hall of Justice, welcomed more than 11,500 visitors in 2004. The Learning Center, which is open to the public free of charge, focuses on Michigan's justice system and its history. Hands-on exhibits, including a computer-interactive mock trial, educate visitors about basic principles of law and court procedures. Trained volunteers guide tours and assist with special programs. Learning Center tour groups include students from the fourth grade through high school, college and law students, community organizations, and the general public. Most visitors are Michigan residents, but the Learning Center also receives visitors from across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia.



Ernest G. Green

On May 12, 2004, the Learning Center commemorated the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court *Brown v. Board of Education* decision with a presentation by Ernest G. Green, former Assistant Secretary of Labor and one of the "Little Rock Nine" who integrated the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Over 90 high school students, law students and others attended the free presentation. An archived webcast of this event and related materials are available on the Learning Center web site at <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/brown-v-board/brown.htm>.



In August 2004, the Learning Center brought 47 K-12 teachers to the Hall of Justice for a seminar on how to incorporate the Learning Center into a classroom curriculum. The educators attended sessions about the judicial branch and related Michigan Educational Assessment Program standards. Seminar faculty included representatives of the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, SCAO, Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society, Michigan Department of Education, and Michigan Historical Center.

In October 2004, the Learning Center collaborated with the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning to create a computer interactive display, entitled “Drinking & Driving: Know the Consequences.” The exhibit, which is aimed primarily at middle and high school students, illustrates the legal, economic, emotional, and physical consequences of drinking and driving.

MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

The Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi) is the educational office of SCAO, dedicated to providing quality, timely education for Michigan judges and judicial branch staff. In 2004, MJi held more than 50 seminars for the judicial branch focusing on substantive, procedural, and practical issues.

MJi continued to offer educational opportunities via webcast over the Internet. Court staff throughout Michigan may view educational seminars by connecting to www.courts.mi.gov/mji. Webcast users see and hear the presenter, follow the Power Point presentation, and print any additional resource materials. Webcast participants are also able to ask questions of the presenter through an e-mail “chat” feature. Webcasts can be viewed in real time, or later in an archived format on the Court’s website. In addition to numerous on-site programs, MJi held 17 seminars that were simultaneously webcast; 242 participants “attended” those seminars via the Internet. In 2004, 1,632 people viewed MJi’s archived webcasts.



MJi’s 2004 seminars included “A Journalist’s Guide to Michigan Courts,” which was held in collaboration with the Supreme Court Office of Public Information and attended by reporters from across the state. MJi also collaborated with the executive branch on two different training projects. In the spring, MJi coordinated with Department of State, Bureau of Elections personnel to hold a seminar and webcast on judicial elections. The archived program was viewed by members of the public more than 50 times before the November general election. In December, MJi coordinated with representatives of the Attorney General’s Office to offer an Emergency Response Training seminar and webcast for judges, court managers and security personnel. (Access to the archived webcast is by password only.) In addition, working with SCAO’s Child Welfare Services director and the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice, MJi produced a training curriculum for attorneys representing children and parents in child protective proceedings. That curriculum was used to train hundreds of attorneys throughout Michigan.

MJi publication staff also produced and updated several benchbooks and monographs, addressing topics such as crime victim rights, civil and criminal proceedings, and traffic violations. MJi’s Crime

MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, *continued*

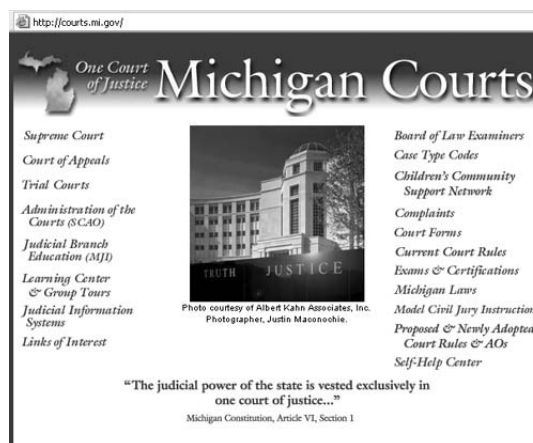
Victim Rights Manual will be used as the template for a national benchbook on the topic, and in the January 2004 issue of the Michigan Bar Journal, MJJ's Domestic Violence Benchbook and Juvenile Justice Benchbook were noted as "major resources for the new family law attorney."



MJI webcasts and publications, including monthly publication updates, are available on the "One Court of Justice" website at <http://courts.mi.gov/mji>.

2004 WEB PRESENCE**"One Court of Justice" Website**

The "One Court of Justice" webpage links to websites for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, SCAO, MJJ, Michigan trial courts, Board of Law Examiners, and other sites of interest. A wide variety of materials are available via the "One Court of Justice" site at no charge, including Supreme Court and Court of Appeals opinions, court forms, Michigan court rules, and ethics rules for attorneys and judges. In 2004, the site received an average of over 6,500 visits per day, with 609,684 visits during the last three months of 2004.

**ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION/COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Alternative dispute resolution, often referred to as ADR, encompasses various methods for resolving legal disputes without litigation. Arbitration, case evaluation, and mediation are examples of ADR. Mediation, the most commonly used ADR procedure in Michigan, involves a trained neutral party who helps the parties to a dispute reach their own resolution. Mediation is used in a wide range of disputes, ranging from small claims cases to complex general civil cases in circuit court. Juvenile truancy cases, child abuse and neglect cases, and contested adult guardianship matters are also resolved through mediation. In addition, mediation is being tested in truancy cases and juvenile criminal matters. In 2005, SCAO will evaluate whether mediation of post-judgment parenting time disputes is effective.

A 2004 SCAO study indicates that mediation has other benefits besides avoiding the time and expense of a trial. In small claims cases, litigants were 23 percent more likely to collect full or partial payment on judgments obtained through mediation than through a hearing. Parties in mediation also tended to be paid more quickly. In the family division, mediation in child abuse and neglect cases was demonstrated to have reduced the time to permanency by just over one year.

Recognizing these and other good outcomes, courts are encouraging—and in some cases ordering—parties to enter into mediation. Seventy-one Michigan courts have formalized their referral of cases to ADR. A list of SCAO-approved court ADR plans is available on the "One Court of Justice" website at <http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/resources/other/localadrlist3.pdf>.

SCAO also provides funding to Michigan's 20 Community Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers. In some jurisdictions, CDRP centers mediate small claims and landlord tenant cases; in others, parties in contested adult guardianship matters resolve their disputes informally. In addition, Michigan courts use CDRP centers to help resolve complex cases, including post-judgment parenting time or child custody disputes, and general civil cases in both district and circuit courts.

In 2004, CDRP centers achieved a resolution rate of 74 percent when all parties agreed to use a center's services. Of the 12,155 cases disposed of by centers in 2004, 74 percent were referred by courts.



COURT REFORM

Concurrent Jurisdiction

Under Public Act 678 of 2002, a county or judicial circuit may consolidate its circuit, probate and/or district courts to improve administrative efficiency and balance caseloads among the judges. A majority of the participating trial judges within a county or circuit must vote to adopt a plan of concurrent jurisdiction; if SCAO approves the plan, the courts can then proceed with consolidation.

In 2002, after studying court consolidation in seven demonstration project courts, the Michigan Supreme Court urged the Legislature to enact some form of court reorganization. In each project court, judges served as needed to handle matters in circuit, probate, or district court. A National Center for State Courts report found that "[a]ll of the consolidated courts are generally making more efficient use of judicial and quasi-judicial resources under the demonstration projects than the pre-consolidation courts."

Six of the seven demonstration project courts have converted to concurrent jurisdiction status, having submitted concurrent jurisdiction plans to SCAO as required by Public Act 678. In 2004, an additional four judicial circuits submitted concurrent jurisdiction plans and began consolidating their trial court operations.

Probate Judgeships

On December 29, 2004, Public Act 492 of 2004 was signed into law, converting nine of Michigan's 10 remaining part-time probate court judges to full-time status. The full-time judges will have the jurisdiction, powers, duties, and title of a district judge in addition to those of a probate judge.

Probate judges in some Northern Michigan and Upper Peninsula counties served on a part-time basis because the local probate court's caseload did not justify a full-time judge. The fact that part-time judges also practiced law in their circuits raised concerns, however, about the appearance of impropriety. In addition, SCAO advocated eliminating the part-time judgeships to streamline trial court jurisdiction and improve service to the public.

COURT REFORM, *continued*

As of March 30, 2005, Public Act 492 will convert part-time probate judges in Iron and Ontonagon counties to full-time judges who can also preside as district judges. On January 2, 2007, the part-time probate judges in Alcona, Baraga, Benzie, Missaukee, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Presque Isle Counties will become full-time judges who can also preside as district court judges. Public Act 492 provides that the state's last remaining part-time probate judge in Keweenaw County could be converted to full-time status if the voters of Keweenaw and Houghton Counties vote to establish a probate court district for the two counties.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Under Michigan's juvenile code, judges have many options for youth who commit crimes, including juvenile detention. Juvenile detention is, however, among the most expensive options, and its effectiveness has been questioned. Other community resources might do a better job of meeting delinquents' needs while addressing public safety concerns.

To explore alternatives to traditional detention, SCAO, in partnership with FIA, initiated the Jurisdictional Planning Assistance (JPA) program in 2004. Through intensive two-day workshops, JPA brings together representatives from the courts, local child welfare agencies and other stakeholders, who develop local, non-institutional alternatives to confinement at detention centers and plan for improved services to help released juveniles re-enter the community. The workshops are presented by the Center for Research and Professional Development, a division of the Outreach Programs at Michigan State University.

SCAO's 2004 evaluation of the program, which focused on seven Michigan sites, showed that JPA has been effective. For example, Monroe County saved \$1,134,000 over three years because alternatives to traditional confinement led to fewer placements in out-of-county facilities. Berrien County's juvenile facility experienced overcrowding for 17 consecutive years, with an average of 135 residents. In the wake of JPA, the facility now averages 50 youth at any given time, and the juvenile court saved \$250,000 per year by eliminating out-of-state and out-of-county detentions.

Based on these positive results, SCAO is looking to adapt the JPA approach for similar issues in child welfare.

**CASEFLOW MANAGEMENT**

Caseload management—the efficient and fair processing of court cases—is one of the judicial branch's most important responsibilities.

The Michigan Supreme Court adopted Administrative Order 2003-7, effective January 1, 2004, which requires each Michigan trial court to adopt Supreme Court-established time guidelines; each court is also required to develop its own caseload management plan. In 2004, SCAO provided caseload management training for judges and court staff.

In addition, courts prepared to implement a new feature of the Caseload Reporting System (CRS). In 2004, SCAO trained court staff in CRS reporting requirements. Courts will begin tracking caseload in 2005, with the first annual caseload reports due in January 2006.

JUDICIAL ACTIVITY AND CASELOAD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The **Michigan Supreme Court** is Michigan's court of last resort, with final authority over all state courts. In 2004, 2,255 cases were filed with the Supreme Court. Civil cases accounted for 35 percent of the filings and criminal cases accounted for 65 percent. The Court disposed of 2,215 cases. More detail on the Supreme Court can be found on pages 20 and 21 of this report.
- The **Court of Appeals** is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Supreme Court. In 2004, 7,055 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. The Court disposed of 7,293 cases. Of the dispositions, 53 percent were by order and 47 percent were by opinion. More information about the Court of Appeals can be found on pages 22 through 24 of this report.
- The **Circuit Court** is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan. Circuit courts have original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000; in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; and in all family cases and domestic relations cases such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile proceedings, and adoptions. In addition, the circuit court hears appeals from other courts and from administrative agencies. In 2004, 336,523 cases were filed in the circuit court. More information on the circuit court can be found on pages 25 through 42 of this report.
- The **Probate Court** has jurisdiction over cases pertaining to the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons. In 2004, 63,262 cases were filed in the probate court. Almost 40 percent of these filings pertained to the administration of decedent estates and small estates. Another 34 percent were guardianships and conservatorships. More information on the probate court can be found on pages 43 through 50 of this report.
- The **District Court** has jurisdiction over all civil litigation up to \$25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes and civil infractions, most traffic violations, and a range of criminal cases. In 2004, over 3.3 million cases were filed with the district court. Of this number, over 2 million were traffic and drunk driving cases. Misdemeanor traffic cases, excluding drunk driving, decreased from 2003 to 2004 by 139,174 cases or 32 percent. Non-traffic misdemeanor cases decreased from 2003 to 2004 by 21.5 percent. More information on the district court can be found on pages 51 through 63 of this report.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



The Supreme Court is Michigan's court of last resort, consisting of seven justices. Cases come before the Court during a term that starts August 1 and runs through July 31 of the following year. The Court hears oral arguments in Lansing beginning in October of each term. Decisions are released throughout the term.

Michigan Supreme Court justices are elected for eight-year terms. Candidates are nominated by political parties and are elected on a nonpartisan ballot. Two justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Michigan Supreme Court candidates must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan, and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The justices' salaries are fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the State. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the Governor until the next general election. Every two years, the justices of the Court elect a member of the Court as Chief Justice.

Each year, the Michigan Supreme Court receives over 2,000 new case filings. In most cases, the litigants seek review of Michigan Court of Appeals decisions, but the Court also hears cases involving charges of professional misconduct by attorneys and judges and a small number of matters as to which it has original jurisdiction. All cases are reviewed and considered by the entire Court. The justices are assisted by the Supreme Court Commissioners, the Court's permanent research staff. The Court issues a decision by order or opinion in all cases filed. The Court may affirm or reverse the decision below or remand the case to a lower court for further proceedings.

In 2004, 2,255 cases were filed with the Michigan Supreme Court; the Court disposed of 2,215 cases. Of the 2,255 new filings, 799 (35 percent) were civil cases and 1,456 (65 percent) were criminal cases. As of December 31, 2004, the total number of cases pending was 1,073.

2004 BENCH

Chief Justice

Maura D. Corrigan

Justices

Michael F. Cavanagh

Elizabeth A. Weaver

Marilyn Kelly

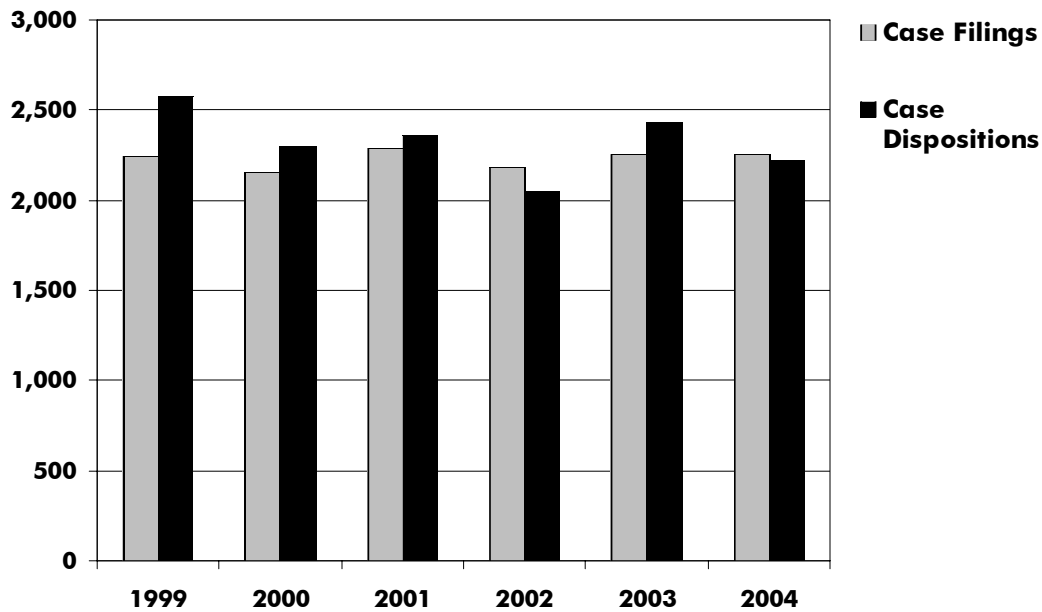
Clifford W. Taylor

Robert P. Young, Jr.

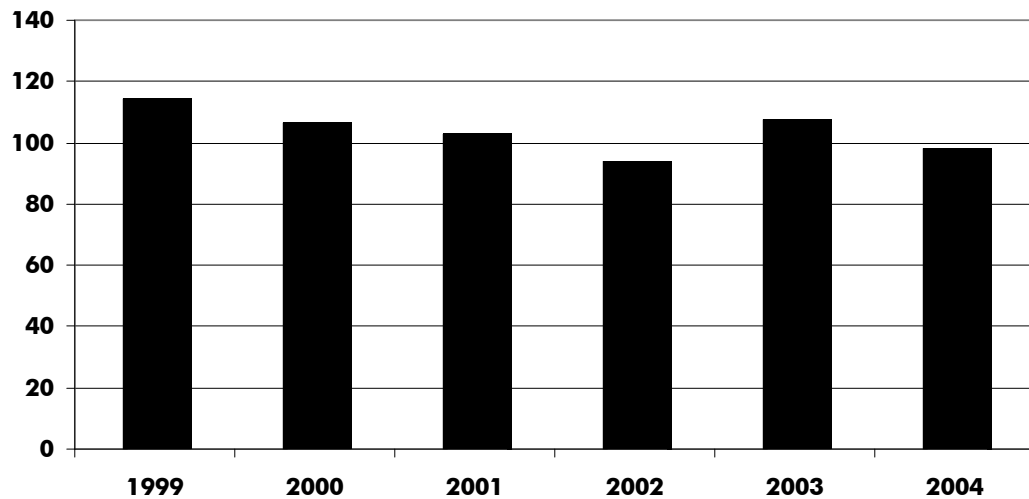
Stephen J. Markman

SUPREME COURT CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cases Filed	2,436	2,246	2,159	2,291	2,180	2,256	2,255
Cases Disposed	2,992	2,571	2,302	2,359	2,052	2,431	2,215

**SUPREME COURT DISPOSITION RATE**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Disposition Rate	123	114	107	103	94	108	98



Disposition Rate: Case Dispositions Per 100 New Filings

COURT OF APPEALS

The Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court between the trial courts and the Michigan Supreme Court. While the Court of Appeals was created by the 1963 Michigan Constitution, its jurisdiction is established by statute. The practices and procedures of the Court of Appeals are governed by Michigan Court Rules set by the Supreme Court. Court of Appeals judges' salaries are set by the Legislature. The Supreme Court chooses a chief judge for the Court of Appeals every two years.

Court of Appeals judges are elected for six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate for the Court of Appeals must be a lawyer admitted to practice for at least five years, under 70 years of age at the time of election, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which the candidate is running.

Judges are elected from four districts, which are drawn by the Legislature along county lines. The districts are as nearly as possible of equal population. The Legislature may change the number of judges and alter the districts in which they are elected by changing state law.

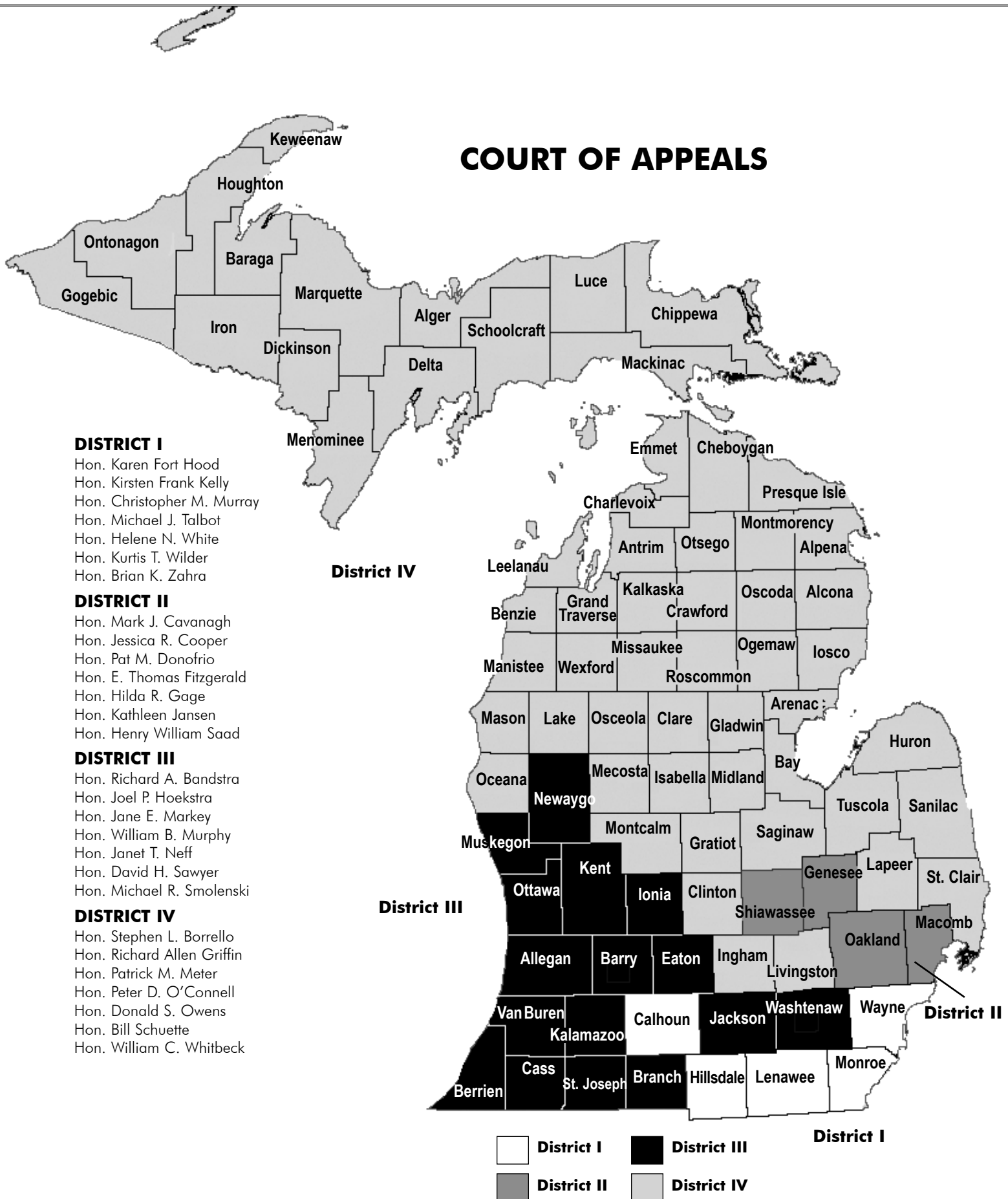
Panels of three Court of Appeals judges hear cases in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Marquette. Panels are rotated geographically so that the judges hear cases in each of the Court's locations.

The Court of Appeals hears both civil and criminal cases. Persons convicted of a criminal offense other than by a guilty plea have an appeal by right under the state constitution.

In 2004, 7,055 cases were filed with the Court of Appeals. This represents a decrease of about 5.2 percent (390 cases) over the 7,445 cases filed in 2003.

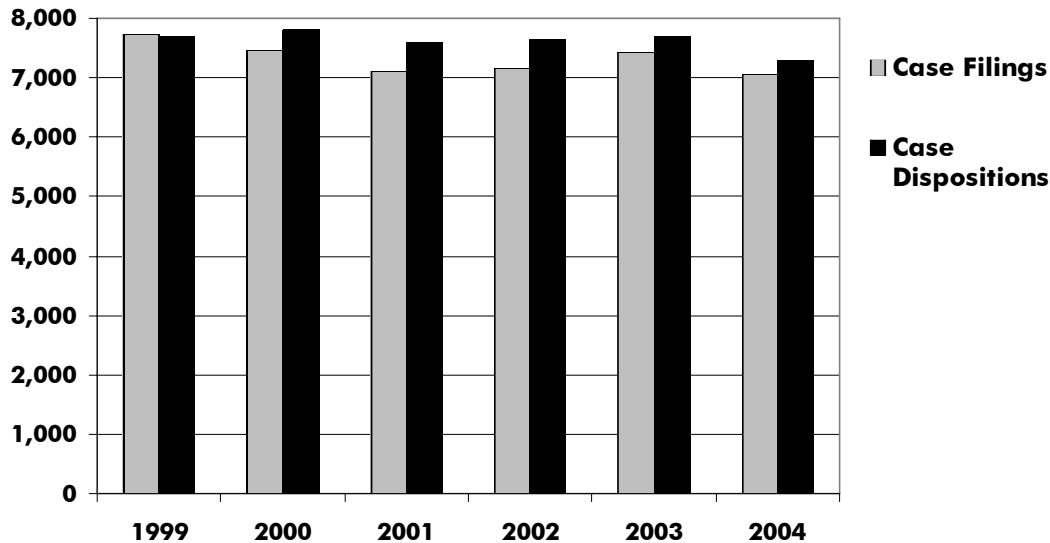
In 2004, the Court of Appeals disposed of 7,293 cases, a decrease of about 5.4 percent (413 cases) over the 7,706 cases disposed of in 2003. Of the dispositions, 3,869 (53.1 percent) were by order and 3,424 (46.9 percent) were by opinion.

COURT OF APPEALS



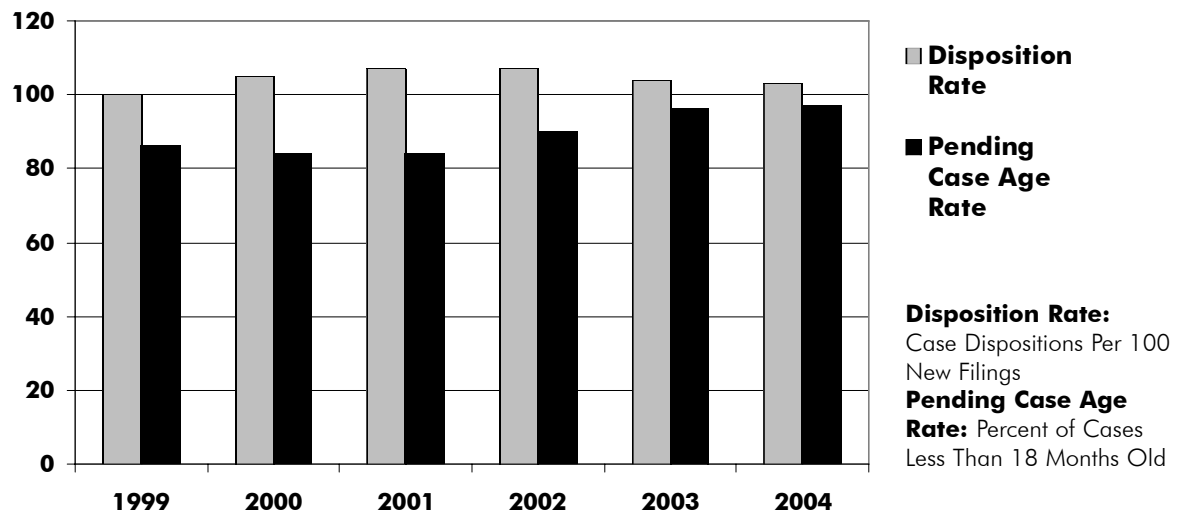
COURT OF APPEALS CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cases Filed	8,866	8,264	7,731	7,460	7,102	7,156	7,445	7,055
Cases Disposed	10,242	8,806	7,715	7,799	7,606	7,647	7,708	7,293



COURT OF APPEALS DISPOSITION RATE AND PENDING CASE AGE RATE

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Disposition Rate	116	107	100	105	107	107	104	103
Pending Case Age Rate	90	89	86	84	84	90	96	97



CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. The circuit court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. The circuit court's original jurisdiction includes criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors, civil cases over \$25,000, family division cases, and appeals from other courts and administrative agencies.

In addition, the circuit court has superintending control over courts within the judicial circuit, subject to final superintending control of the Supreme Court.

The state is divided into judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate required judicial activity. In multi-county circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions.

Circuit judges are elected to six-year terms in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer admitted to practice for five years and under 70 years of age at the time of election. The Legislature sets salaries for circuit judges.

Caseload Trends Analysis

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. This change may affect trend analysis that includes data from previous reporting years.

Before 2002, circuit court caseloads were reported under a number of broad categories: appeals, civil, criminal, domestic relations, personal protection, juvenile, and other family division cases. Caseload reporting included a few distinctions in types of proceedings within those categories. By contrast, beginning in 2002, caseloads are now reported by individual case type. These individual case types are combined so that data reported after 2001 may be compared against categories from previous years. The Circuit Court Statistical Supplements for each year, beginning in 2002, provide additional detailed information. These Supplements contain both a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each circuit court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories published in previous years' reports, while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

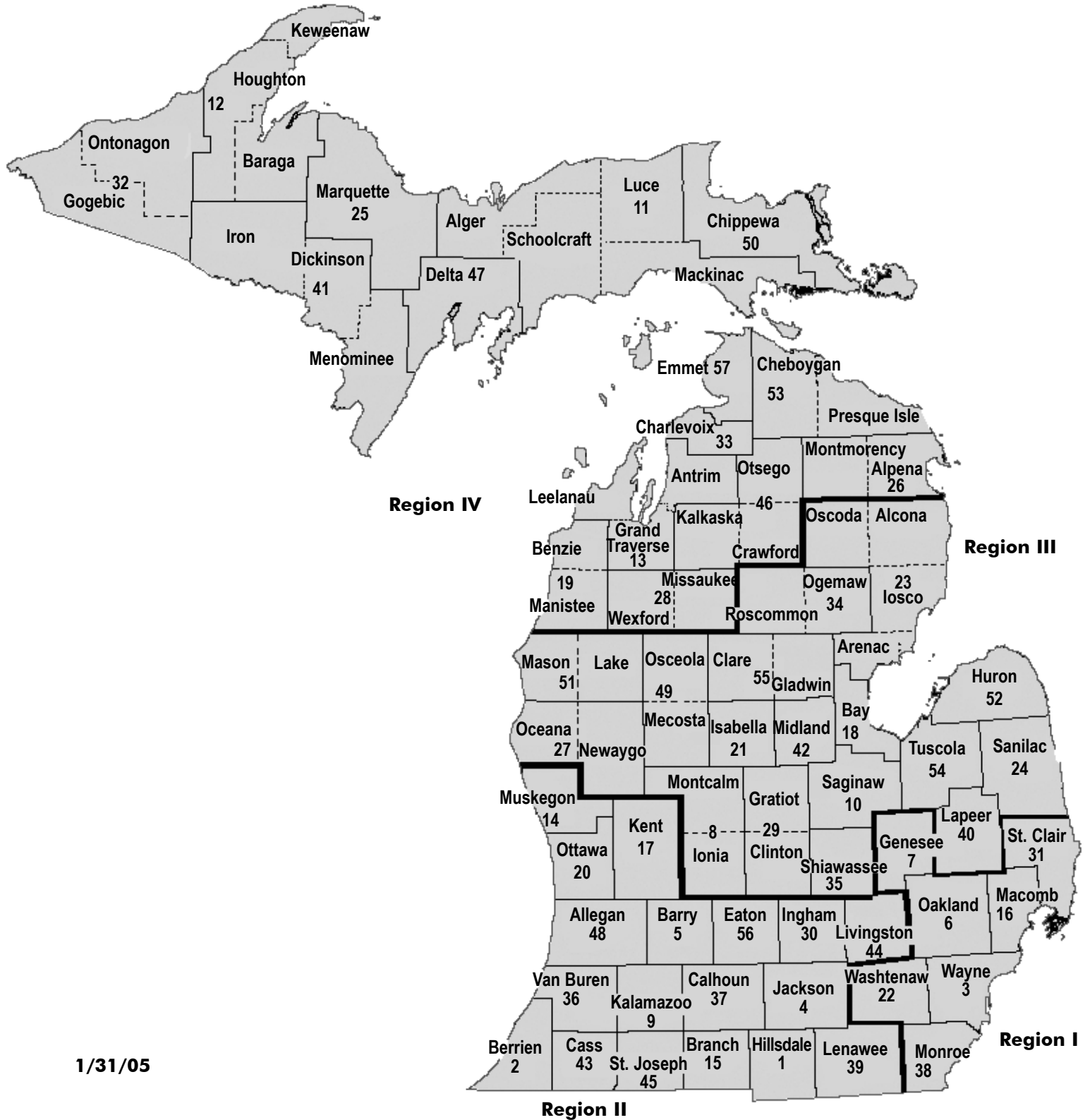
Before 2002, case dispositions were reported when final judgments were filed. Beginning in 2002, case dispositions are now reported when cases are adjudicated. Case dispositions also now include cases that become inactive due to circumstances outside the court's control, such as a criminal defendant's failure to appear in court or bankruptcy proceedings that stay a civil case. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur. At that point, the case is counted reopened. The current time guidelines criteria are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, caseload reports provide

a more precise pending caseload and accurate measures of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them. To compare total dispositions reported after 2001 to numbers reported in previous years, one must subtract cases disposed of as inactive.

Reporting in child protective proceedings also changed in 2002. Before 2002, filings were based on the number of children, regardless of whether a single petition involved more than one child. Starting in 2002, courts report both the number of petitions filed and the number of children associated with those filings. Accordingly, it appears that there were significantly more filings for 2001 and earlier years than for 2002 and following years. As a result, it is more difficult to make comparisons between child protective new filings reported after 2001 and those reported for prior years. It is possible, however, to arrive at some conclusions about overall trends by analyzing the number of filings, the number of children associated with those filings, and the number of supplemental petitions for termination proceedings. To help assess the overall juvenile delinquency and child protective proceedings caseload, the number of minors in the system may be compared from one year to the next. For other case-related information regarding child protective and adoption proceedings, see the Circuit Court Statistical Supplements.

Starting in 2002, circuit courts provide the number of personal protection orders actually issued against adults and minors, as well as the number of personal protection orders that are rescinded each year.

CIRCUIT COURT



1/31/05

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (as of 1/31/05)

C01

Hon. Michael R. Smith

C02

Hon. Alfred M. Butzbaugh
Hon. John M. Donahue
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)
Hon. Casper O. Grathwohl
(left the court 12/31/04^R)
Hon. John T. Hammond
(left the court 12/31/04^R)
Hon. Charles T. LaSata
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)
Hon. Paul L. Maloney

C03

Hon. David J. Allen
Hon. Wendy M. Baxter
Hon. Annette J. Berry
Hon. Gregory D. Bill
Hon. Susan D. Borman
Hon. Ulysses W. Boykin
Hon. Margie R. Braxton
Hon. Helen E. Brown
Hon. William Leo Cahalan
Hon. Bill Callahan
Hon. Michael J. Callahan
Hon. James A. Callahan
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)
Hon. James R. Chylinski
Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr.
Hon. Sean F. Cox
Hon. Daphne Means Curtis
Hon. Christopher D. Dingell
Hon. Gershwin Allen Drain
Hon. Maggie Drake
Hon. Prentis Edwards
Hon. Vonda R. Evans
Hon. Edward Ewell, Jr.
Hon. Patricia Susan Fresard
Hon. John H. Gillis, Jr.
Hon. William J. Giovan
Hon. David Alan Groner
Hon. Richard B. Halloran, Jr.
Hon. Pamela R. Harwood
(left the court 7/11/04^R)
Hon. Amy Patricia Hathaway
Hon. Cynthia Gray Hathaway
Hon. Diane Marie Hathaway
Hon. Michael M. Hathaway
Hon. Richard P. Hathaway
(left the court 7/9/04^E)
Hon. Thomas Edward Jackson
Hon. Vera Massey Jones
Hon. Mary Beth Kelly

KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge
E Newly elected to this court
F Deceased
H Reorganization transfer
N New judgeship
R Retired
S Resigned
Z Position Sunsetting

C03 (continued)

Hon. Timothy Michael Kenny
Hon. Arthur J. Lombard
Hon. Kathleen I. MacDonald
Hon. Wade McCree
(joined the court 7/6/04*)
Hon. Sheila Gibson Manning
Hon. Kathleen M. McCarthy
Hon. Warfield Moore, Jr.
Hon. Bruce A. Morrow
Hon. John A. Murphy
Hon. Susan Bieke Neilson
Hon. Maria L. Oxholm
Hon. Lita Masini Popke
Hon. James J. Rashid
(left the court 8/1/04^R)
Hon. Daniel P. Ryan
Hon. Michael F. Sapala
Hon. Louis F. Simmons, Jr.
(left the court 12/31/04^{R,2})
Hon. Richard M. Skutt
(joined the court 8/23/04*)
Hon. Leslie Kim Smith
Hon. Virgil C. Smith
(joined the court 6/3/04*)
Hon. Jeanne Stempien
Hon. Cynthia Diane Stephens
Hon. Craig S. Strong
Hon. Brian R. Sullivan
Hon. Kaye Tertzag
(left the court 5/1/04^R)
Hon. Deborah A. Thomas
Hon. Edward M. Thomas
Hon. Isidore B. Torres
Hon. Leonard Townsend
(left the court 12/31/04^{R,2})
Hon. Mary M. Waterstone
Hon. Carole F. Youngblood
Hon. Robert L. Ziolkowski

C04

Hon. Edward J. Grant
Hon. John G. McBain, Jr.
Hon. Charles A. Nelson
Hon. Chad C. Schmucker

C05

Hon. James H. Fisher

C06

Hon. James M. Alexander
Hon. Martha Anderson
Hon. Steven N. Andrews
Hon. Patrick J. Brennan
(left the court 2/9/04^E)
Hon. Rae Lee Chabot
Hon. Mark A. Goldsmith
(joined the court 2/19/04*)
Hon. Nanci J. Grant
Hon. Richard D. Kuhn
(left the court 12/31/04^R)
Hon. Denise Langford-Morris
Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)

C06 (continued)

Hon. John James McDonald
Hon. Fred M. Mester
Hon. Rudy J. Nichols
Hon. Colleen A. O'Brien
Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts
Hon. Gene Schnelz
Hon. Edward Sosnick
Hon. Deborah G. Tyner
Hon. Michael D. Warren, Jr.
Hon. Joan E. Young

C07

Hon. Duncan M. Beagle
Hon. Joseph J. Farah
Hon. Judith A. Fullerton
Hon. John A. Gadola
Hon. Archie L. Hayman
Hon. Geoffrey L. Neithercut
Hon. David J. Newblatt
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)
Hon. Robert M. Ransom
Hon. Richard B. Yuille

C08

Hon. David A. Hoort
Hon. Charles H. Miel

C09

Hon. Stephen D. Gorsalitz
Hon. J. Richardson Johnson
Hon. Richard Ryan Lamb
Hon. Philip D. Schaefer
Hon. William G. Schma

C10

Hon. Fred L. Borchard
Hon. Leopold P. Borrello
Hon. William A. Crane
Hon. Lynda L. Heathscott
Hon. Robert L. Kaczmarek

C11

Hon. Charles H. Stark

C12

Hon. Garfield W. Hood

C13

Hon. Thomas G. Power
Hon. Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.

C14

Hon. James M. Graves, Jr.
Hon. Timothy G. Hicks
Hon. William C. Marietti
Hon. John C. Ruck

C15

Hon. Michael H. Cherry

C16

Hon. James M. Biernat, Sr.
Hon. Richard L. Caretti
Hon. Mary A. Chrzanowski
Hon. Diane M. Druzinski
Hon. Peter J. Maceroni

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGES (as of 1/31/05)**C16** (*continued*)

Hon. Donald G. Miller
 Hon. Deborah A. Servitto
 Hon. Edward A. Servitto, Jr.
 Hon. Mark S. Switalski
 Hon. Matthew S. Switalski
 Hon. Antonio P. Viviano
 Hon. Tracey A. Yokich
 (joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

C17

Hon. George S. Buth
 Hon. Kathleen A. Feeney
 Hon. Donald A. Johnston, III
 Hon. Dennis C. Kolenda
 Hon. Dennis B. Leiber
 Hon. Steven M. Pestka
 Hon. James Robert Redford
 Hon. Paul J. Sullivan
 Hon. Daniel V. Zemaitis

C18

Hon. Lawrence M. Bielawski
 Hon. William J. Caprathe
 Hon. Kenneth W. Schmidt

C19

Hon. James M. Batzer

C20

Hon. Calvin L. Bosman
 Hon. Wesley J. Nykamp
 Hon. Edward R. Post
 Hon. Jon Van Allsburg
 (joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

C21

Hon. Paul H. Chamberlain
 Hon. Mark H. Duthie
 (joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

C22

Hon. Archie Cameron Brown
 Hon. Timothy P. Connors
 Hon. Melinda Morris
 Hon. Donald E. Shelton
 Hon. David S. Swartz

C23

Hon. Ronald M. Bergeron
 Hon. William F. Myles

C24

Hon. Donald A. Teeple

C25

Hon. Thomas L. Solka
 Hon. John R. Weber

C26

Hon. John F. Kowalski
 Hon. Joseph P. Swallow
 (left the court 12/31/04^{8, 2})

C27

Hon. Anthony A. Monton
 Hon. Terrence R. Thomas

C28

Hon. Charles D. Corwin

C29

Hon. Jeffrey L. Martlew
 Hon. Randy L. Tahvonen

C30

Hon. Laura Baird
 Hon. Joyce Draganchuk
 (joined the court 1/1/05⁵)
 Hon. Thomas Leo Brown
 (left the court 12/31/04⁸)

Hon. William E. Collette
 Hon. James R. Giddings
 Hon. Janelle A. Lawless
 Hon. Paula J. M. Manderfield
 Hon. Beverley Renee Nettles-Nickerson

C31

Hon. James P. Adair
 Hon. Peter E. Deegan
 Hon. Daniel J. Kelly

C32

Hon. Roy D. Gotham

C33

Hon. Richard M. Pajtas

C34

Hon. Michael J. Baumgartner

C35

Hon. Gerald D. Lostracco

C36

Hon. William C. Buhl
 Hon. Paul E. Hamre

C37

Hon. Allen L. Garbrecht
 Hon. James C. Kingsley
 Hon. Stephen B. Miller
 Hon. Conrad J. Sindt

C38

Hon. Joseph A. Costello, Jr.
 Hon. Michael W. LaBeau
 Hon. William F. LaVoy
 (left the court 12/31/04⁸)
 Hon. Michael A. Weipert
 (joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

C39

Hon. Harvey A. Koselka
 Hon. Timothy P. Pickard

C40

Hon. Michael P. Higgins
 Hon. Nick O. Holowka

C41

Hon. Mary Brouillette Barglind
 Hon. Richard J. Celello

C42

Hon. Paul J. Clulo
 Hon. Thomas L. Ludington

C43

Hon. Michael E. Dodge

C44

Hon. Daniel A. Burress
 (left the court 12/31/04⁸)
 Hon. Stanley J. Latreille
 Hon. David Reader
 (joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

C45

Hon. James P. Noecker

C46

Hon. Alton T. Davis
 Hon. Dennis F. Murphy

C47

Hon. Stephen T. Davis

C48

Hon. Harry A. Beach
 Hon. George R. Corsiglia

C49

Hon. Lawrence C. Root
 (left the court 2/11/05⁸)

C50

Hon. Nicholas J. Lambros

C51

Hon. Richard I. Cooper

C52

Hon. M. Richard Knoblock

C53

Hon. Scott Lee Pavlich

C54

Hon. Patrick Reed Joslyn

C55

Hon. Kurt N. Hansen

C56

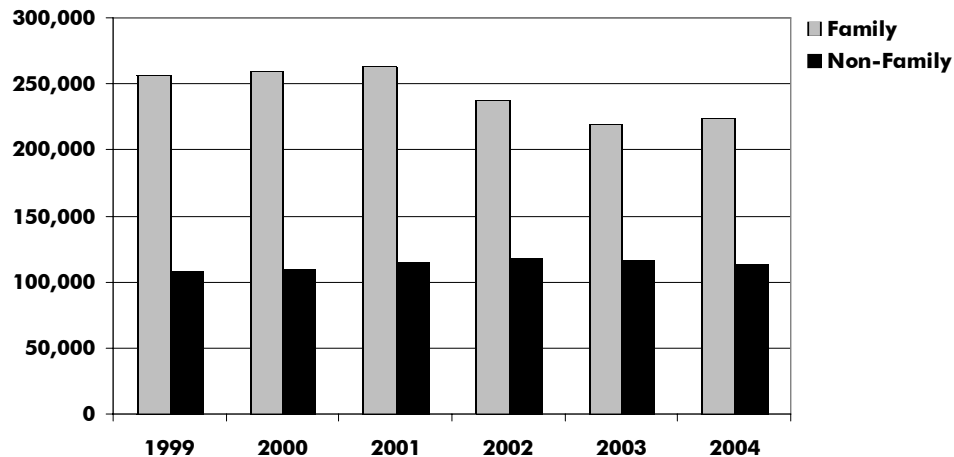
Hon. Thomas S. Eveland
 Hon. Calvin E. Osterhaven

C57

Hon. Charles W. Johnson

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS BY DIVISION

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Family	257,053	259,821	262,628	237,651	219,330	223,499
Nonfamily	108,413	109,291	114,193	117,941	116,241	113,024
Total Filings	365,466	369,112	376,821	355,592	335,571	336,523



In 2004, 336,523 cases were filed in the circuit court. Of this total, 223,499 or 66.4 percent were family division filings and 113,024 or 33.4 percent were non-family filings. Filings in the family division have decreased since a peak in 2001 of 262,628 cases.

CIRCUIT COURT CIVIL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
General Civil	22,015	21,460	25,194	28,628	28,287	26,064
Auto Negligence	9,495	9,381	9,886	9,998	10,185	9,435
Non-Auto Damage	11,646	11,703	11,311	10,118	9,439	8,789
Other Civil	3,039	3,572	4,054	2,191	2,222	2,292
Total Filings	46,195	46,116	50,445	50,935	50,133	46,580

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
General Civil	24,543	23,141	25,545	27,581	28,789	28,084
Auto Negligence	10,574	10,057	10,594	10,101	10,136	10,313
Non-Auto Damage	15,411	12,851	12,831	10,699	10,112	11,059
Other Civil	3,184	3,724	3,804	2,046	2,130	2,204
Total Dispositions	53,712	49,773	52,774	50,427	51,167	51,660

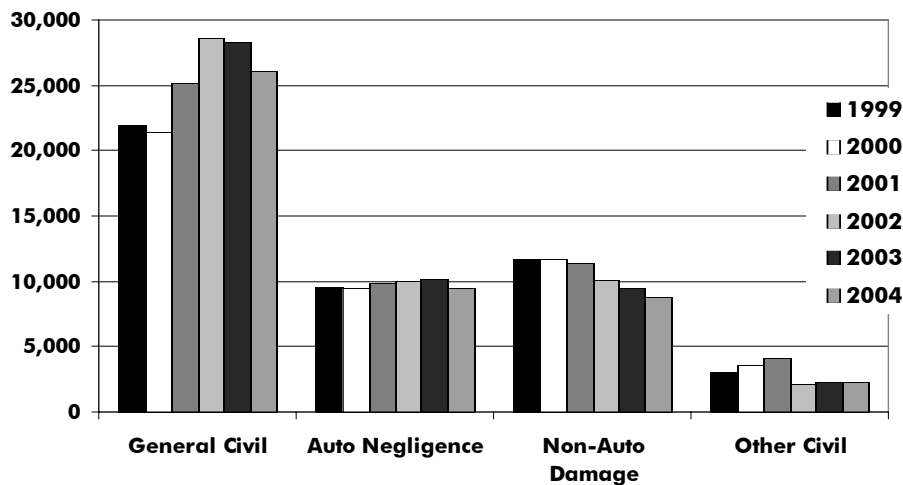
Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2004, 41.2 percent of the filings in the non-family division of circuit court were civil filings. General civil filings decreased by 7.9 percent from 2003. Auto negligence filings decreased by 7.4 percent from 2003, when filings peaked at 10,185. Non-auto damage filings continued to decrease at an average rate of 5.4 percent per year since 1999. Other civil filings remained low, with 2,292 filings in 2004.

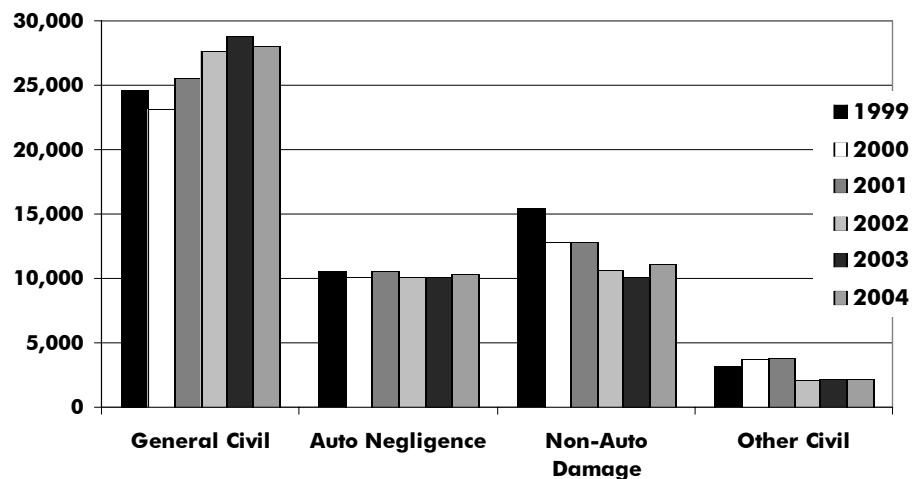
Despite the decreases in general civil, auto negligence, and non-auto damage filings between 2003 and 2004, dispositions remained relatively high. In 2003 and 2004, dispositions exceeded new filings in the general civil category.

In 2004, almost 40 percent of civil cases were dismissed by the party that filed the case. Another 36.5 percent were uncontested, defaulted, or settled out of court. Two percent were disposed of by a jury or bench verdict. SCAO does not collect the findings of these verdicts.

Circuit Court Civil Case Filings



Circuit Court Civil Case Dispositions



CIRCUIT COURT CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Non-Capital	49,311	51,686	52,991	56,854	56,414	57,524
Capital	3,780	3,758	3,907	3,468	3,707	3,549
Felony Juvenile	NA	NA	NA	93	87	98
Total Filings	53,091	55,444	56,898	60,415	60,208	61,171

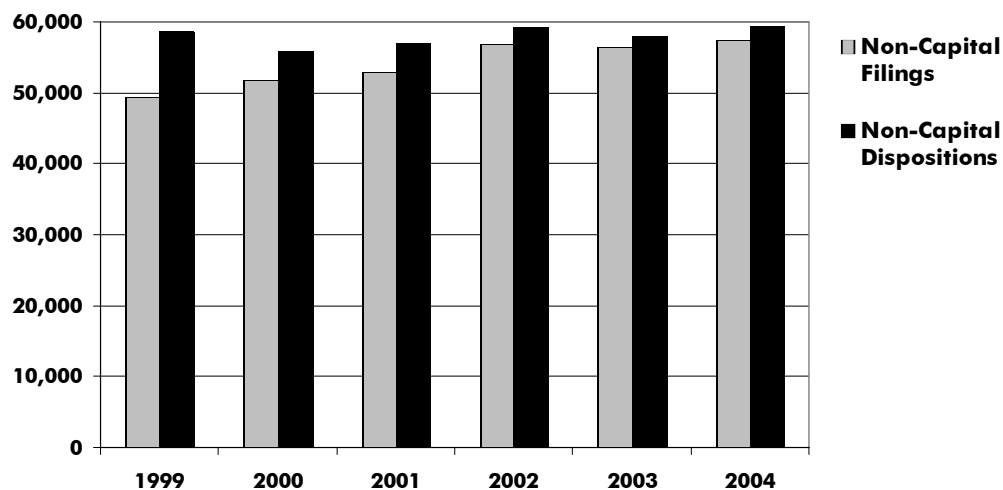
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Non-Capital	58,696	55,916	57,071	59,116	58,002	59,421
Capital	3,778	3,583	3,846	3,737	3,757	3,661
Felony Juvenile	NA	NA	NA	81	82	99
Total Dispositions	62,474	59,499	60,917	62,934	61,841	63,181

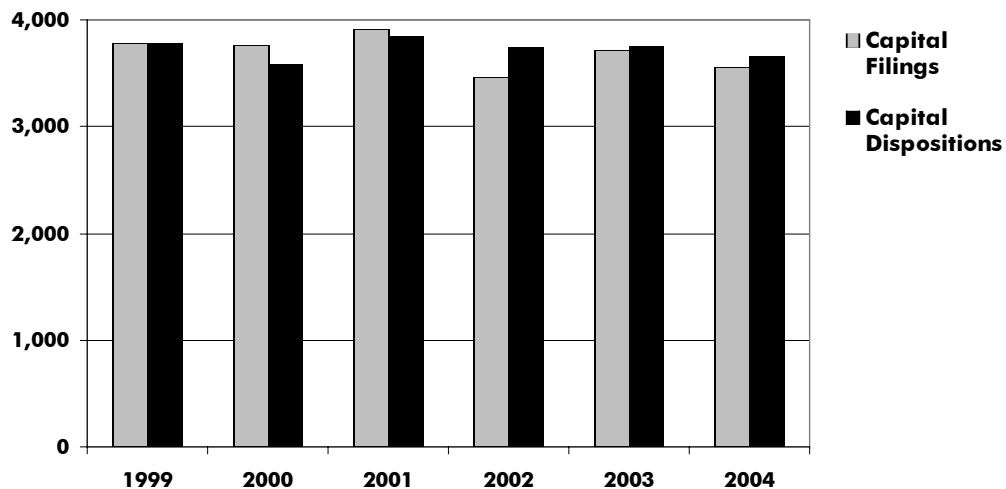
Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2004, 54.1 percent of the filings in the non-family division of circuit court were criminal felony filings. Total felony filings increased to 61,171 and exceeded filings in every other year between 1999 and 2004. The majority of these cases are non-capital felony filings with adult defendants. Felony filings with juvenile defendants remained at less than 100 per year.

Total felony dispositions increased to 63,181 and exceeded felony dispositions in every other year between 1999 and 2004. The vast majority of felonies were disposed of by a guilty plea. In 2004, 79.9 percent of dispositions were guilty pleas. Less than 5 percent of felonies were disposed of by a jury or bench verdict. SCAO does not collect the findings of these verdicts.

Circuit Court Criminal Non-Capital Case Filings and Dispositions



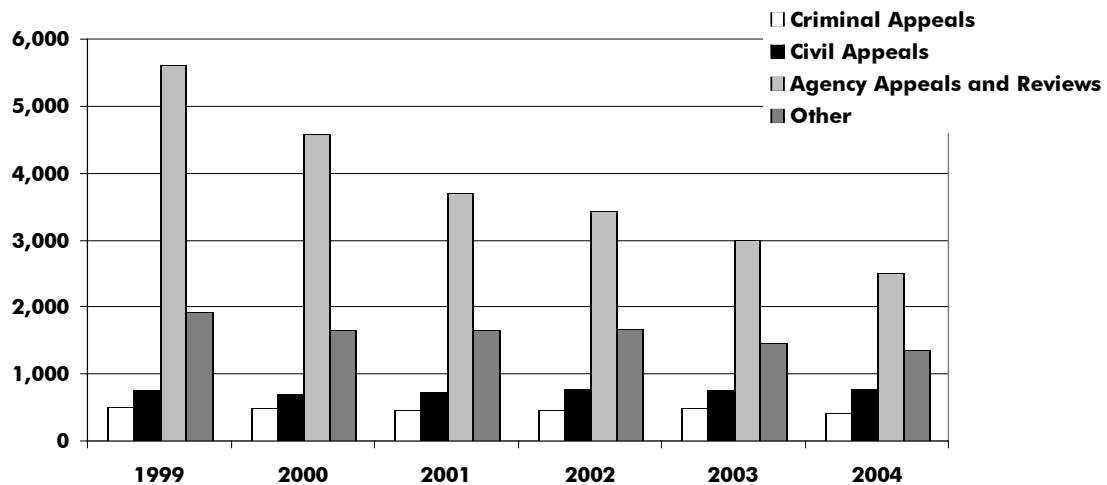
Circuit Court Criminal Capital Case Filings and Dispositions**CIRCUIT COURT APPEALS, ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW,
AND EXTRAORDINARY WRIT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS**

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Criminal Appeals	496	484	454	456	475	411
Civil Appeals	757	687	723	765	757	765
Agency Appeals and Reviews	5,607	4,572	3,701	3,437	2,994	2,499
Other	1,923	1,657	1,662	1,679	1,453	1,354
Total Filings	8,783	7,400	6,540	6,337	5,679	5,029

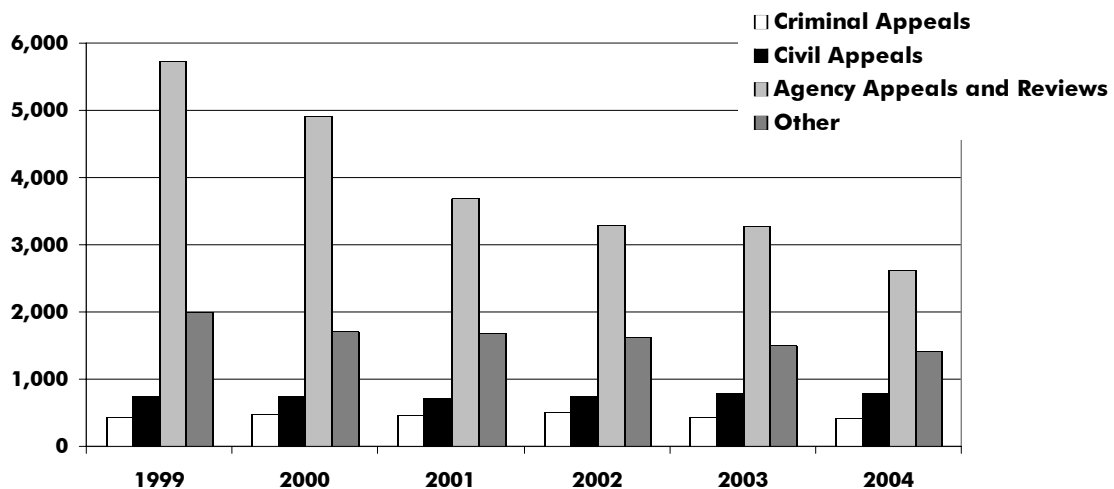
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Criminal Appeals	437	484	459	495	436	407
Civil Appeals	747	747	714	760	793	790
Agency Appeals and Reviews	5,726	4,927	3,684	3,296	3,272	2,624
Other	2,006	1,711	1,682	1,623	1,506	1,422
Total Dispositions	8,916	7,869	6,539	6,174	6,007	5,243

Appeals accounted for 4.4 percent of the filings in the non-family division of circuit court. Appeals (excluding civil appeals, administrative reviews, and extraordinary writ filings) continued to decrease. Total filings reached a low of 5,029. Dispositions followed this trend and also reached a low of 5,243 cases.

Filings of Circuit Court Appellate Cases, Administrative Reviews, and Actions for Extraordinary Writs



Dispositions of Circuit Court Appellate Cases, Administrative Reviews, and Actions for Extraordinary Writs



CIRCUIT COURT DOMESTIC RELATIONS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

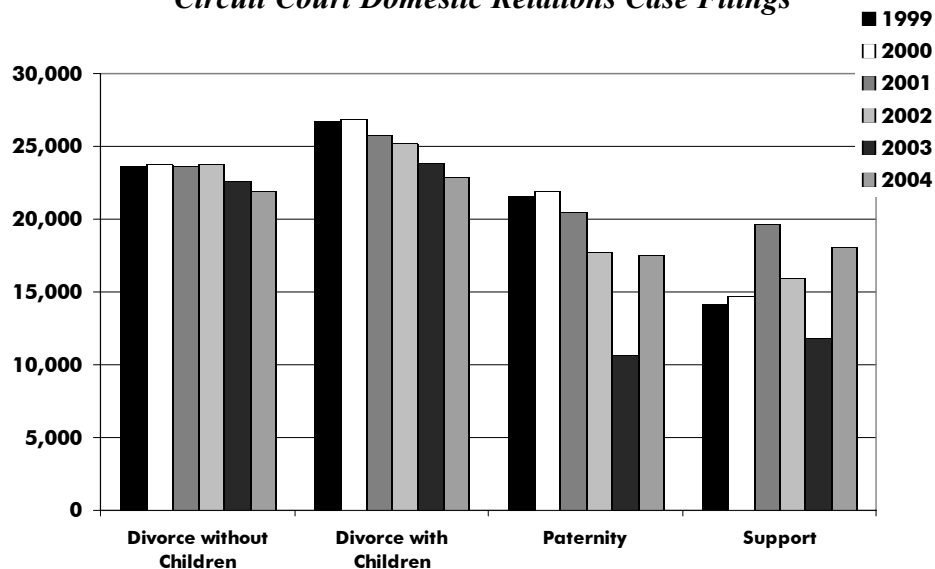
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Divorce without Children	23,663	23,760	23,679	23,760	22,628	21,915
Divorce with Children	26,716	26,799	25,796	25,172	23,802	22,890
Paternity	21,493	21,940	20,493	17,725	10,718	17,458
Support	14,114	14,758	19,595	15,971	11,803	18,095
Other Domestic	4,983	4,903	5,261	3,539	4,456	4,635
UIFSA	2,970	4,043	4,072	5,570	2,833	4,124
Total Filings	93,939	96,203	98,896	91,737	76,240	89,117

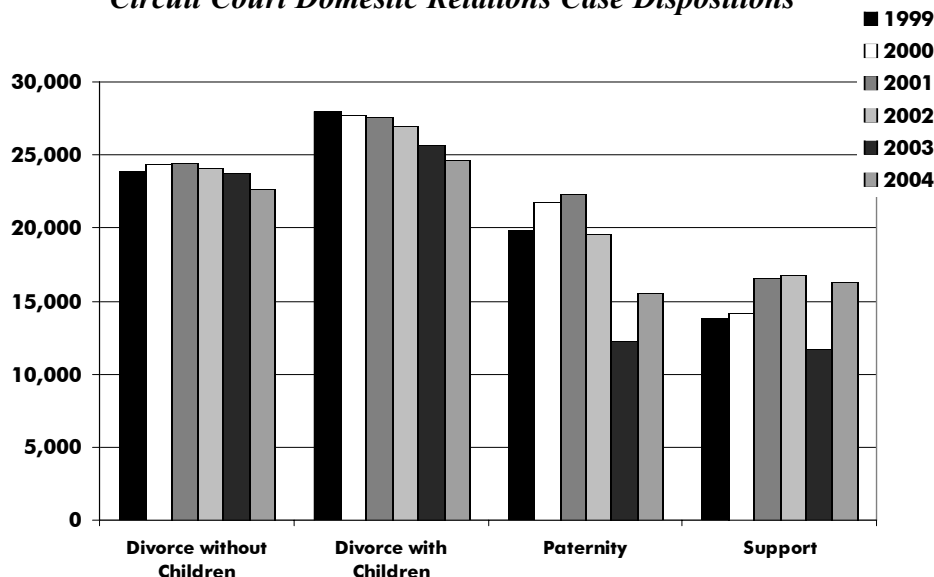
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Divorce without Children	23,830	24,323	24,484	24,088	23,759	22,621
Divorce with Children	27,942	27,739	27,650	26,909	25,701	24,632
Paternity	19,793	21,755	22,353	19,554	12,235	15,558
Support	13,818	14,153	16,568	16,767	11,723	16,316
Other Domestic	4,664	4,629	5,003	3,453	4,465	3,174
UIFSA	3,014	3,938	4,018	5,114	2,596	5,168
Total Dispositions	93,061	96,537	100,076	95,885	80,479	87,469

Assist with Discovery (UD) and UIFSA Establishment (UE) cases are included in the UIFSA category for 1999-2002 and in the Other Domestic category for 2003-2004. Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2004, 223,499 cases were filed in the family division of circuit court, representing 66.4 percent of all circuit court filings. The family division handles domestic relations, personal protection, juvenile, adoption, and miscellaneous family cases. Of the filings in the family division, 20 percent were divorce cases (with or without children). There were 44,805 divorce cases filed, fewer than in any other year between 1999 and 2004. Another 16 percent of family division cases were paternity or support cases. Filings in both paternity and support cases were lower in 2003 than in any year between 1999 and 2004. In 2004, 87,469 domestic relations cases were disposed of in circuit court.

Circuit Court Domestic Relations Case Filings



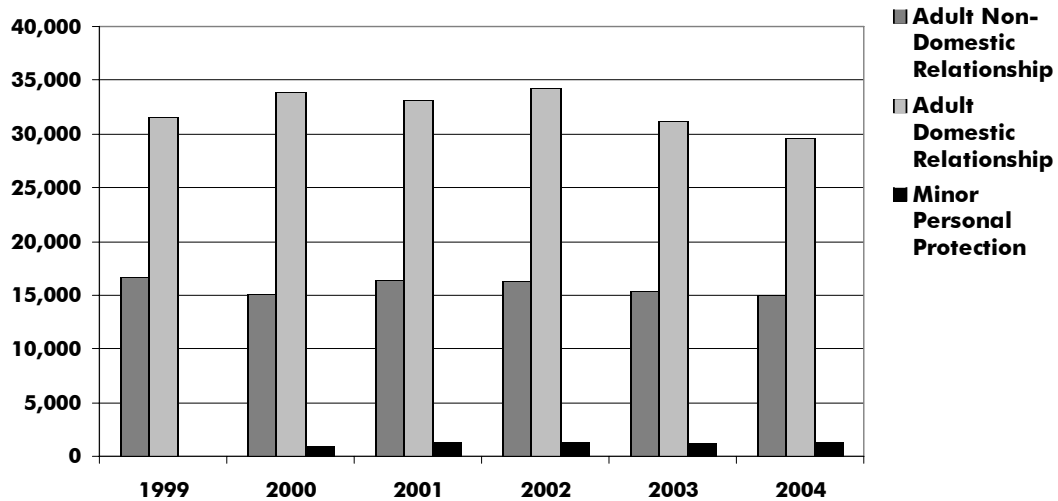
Circuit Court Domestic Relations Case Dispositions**CIRCUIT COURT PERSONAL PROTECTION FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS**

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Adult Non-Domestic Relationship	16,660	15,144	16,462	16,287	15,405	15,025
Adult Domestic Relationship	31,563	33,913	33,123	34,206	31,168	29,629
Minor Personal Protection	NA	875	1,279	1,278	1,235	1,341
Total Filings	48,223	49,932	50,864	51,771	47,808	45,995

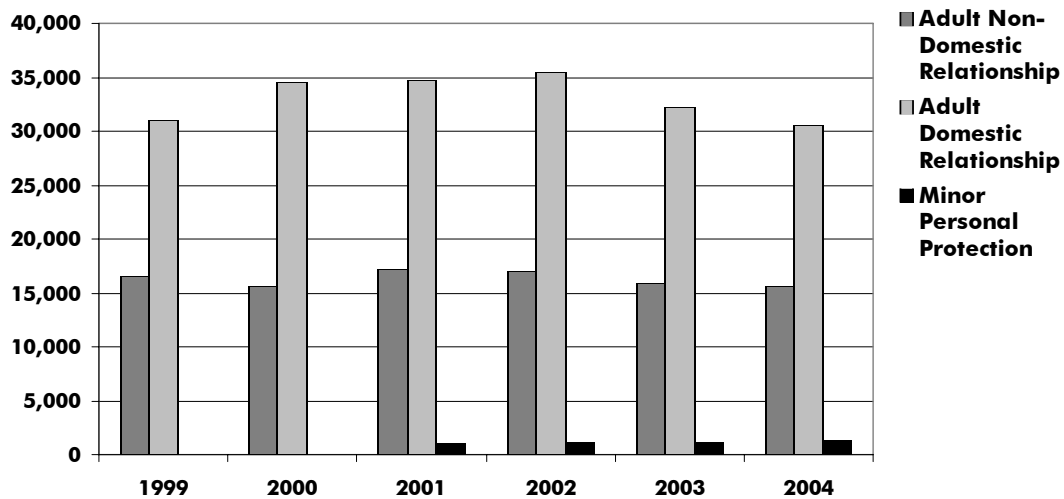
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Adult Non-Domestic Relationship	16,474	15,597	17,092	16,950	15,879	15,586
Adult Domestic Relationship	31,039	34,503	34,633	35,417	32,152	30,546
Minor Personal Protection	NA	NA	1,079	1,199	1,173	1,352
Total Dispositions	47,513	50,100	51,725	53,566	49,204	47,484

Personal Protection Orders issued against a minor began to be counted separately in 2000.

Filings for protection orders against adults, for both domestic and non-domestic situations, decreased to the lowest level of any year between 1999 and 2004. Of all personal protection filings, 32.7 percent sought protection against adults in non-domestic situations and 64.4 percent sought protection against adults in domestic situations. The remaining 2.9 percent sought protection against minors. The number of these personal protection filings increased to 1,341, higher than any other year since 2000, when minor personal protections began to be counted separately. Of the 1,341 filings to obtain protection against minors, 740 were subsequently issued by the circuit court.

Circuit Court Personal Protection Petition Filings

Minor personal protection filings were not counted separately in 1999.

Circuit Court Personal Protection Petition Dispositions

Minor personal protection dispositions were not counted separately in 1999 and 2000.

CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS UNDER JUVENILE CODE

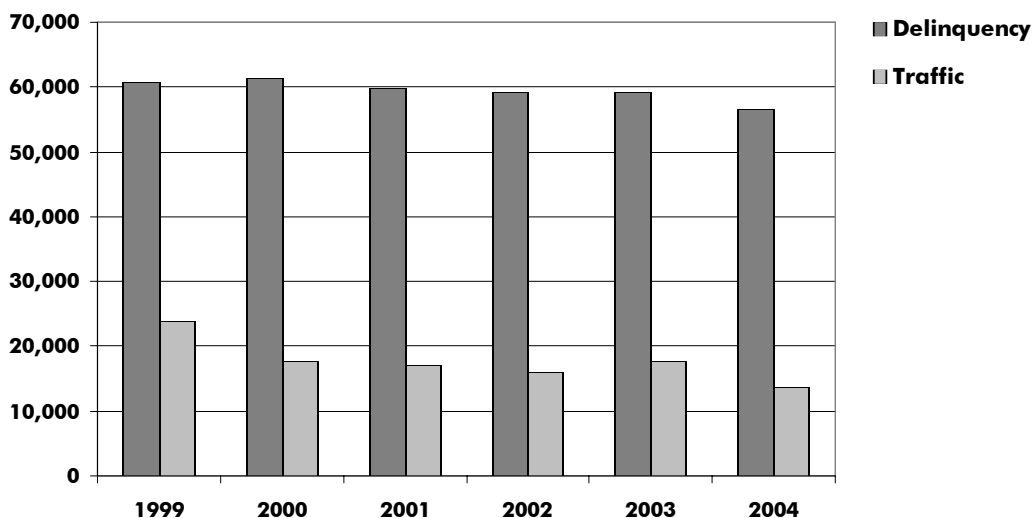
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Delinquency	60,743	61,410	59,910	59,098	59,298	56,506
Traffic	23,738	17,614	17,127	16,087	17,674	13,629
Child Protective	9,529	12,073	12,582	8,589	8,491	8,490
Designated	NA	240	180	259	201	191
Total Filings	94,010	91,337	89,799	84,033	85,664	78,816

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Delinquency	NA	NA	NA	59,705	56,849	56,264
Traffic	NA	NA	NA	15,551	15,901	14,048
Child Protective	NA	NA	NA	8,313	7,754	7,614
Designated	NA	NA	NA	206	163	160
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	83,775	80,667	78,086

Before 2002, the child protective category reflected the number of children associated with these cases. Beginning in 2002, the courts were instructed to report the number of cases in this category and to report the number of children in another data field. Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

New filings in delinquency proceedings decreased to 56,506 in 2004, the lowest level of any year between 1999 and 2004. Juvenile traffic filings decreased to 13,639 filings in 2004, representing a 22.9 percent decrease from the previous year. This number mirrors a decrease in misdemeanor traffic filings in district court.

At the close of 2004, the circuit court had jurisdiction over 16,843 juveniles as a result of delinquency proceedings. Of those juveniles, 13,246 were supervised by the court, 2,283 were supervised by the Department of Community Justice of Wayne County, and 1,314 were supervised by the Family Independence Agency. An additional 8,290 juveniles who were not already under supervision by the court were awaiting adjudication.

Circuit Court Petitions Filed Under Juvenile Code

CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH NEW FILINGS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CASES

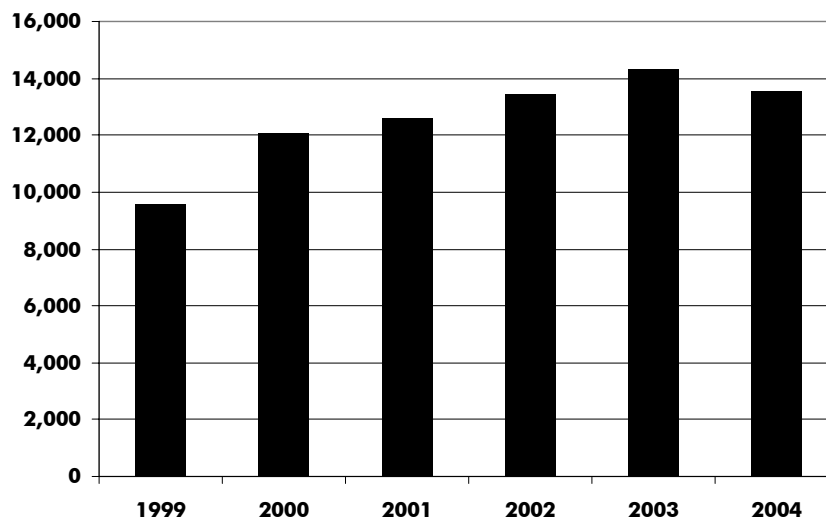
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Children Associated with New Filings of Abuse and Neglect	9,529	12,073	12,582	13,443	14,349	13,524

At the close of 2004, the circuit court had jurisdiction over 18,346 children as a result of child protective proceedings. Of that number, 11,562 were temporary wards of the court, 6,140 were permanent wards of the court or the Michigan Children's Institute, and 644 were temporary wards who had been ordered to the Michigan Children's Institute for observation. An additional 2,925 children were awaiting adjudication and were not already under the court's jurisdiction.

Of the 13,524 children associated with a new child protective filing in 2004, 1,663 (12.3 percent) had previously been under the court's jurisdiction.

Of the 2,705 petitions filed requesting termination of parental rights, 1,029 were filed in the original petition or an amended petition and 1,676 were filed in supplemental petitions. There were an additional 468 supplemental petitions related to child protective cases filed for reasons other than termination.

*Children Associated with New Filings of
Child Abuse and Neglect*



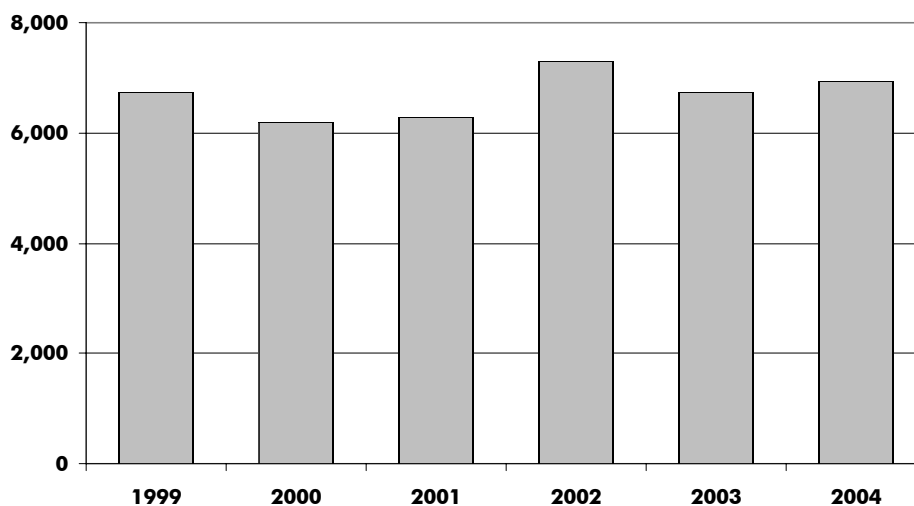
CIRCUIT COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS UNDER ADOPTION CODE

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Petitions for Adoption Filed	6,729	6,190	6,274	6,251	5,659	5,804
Requests for Release of Adoption Information	NA	NA	NA	648	758	843
Petitions for Appointment of Confidential Intermediary	NA	NA	NA	388	323	283
Adoptions Finalized	NA	NA	NA	5,456	5,218	5,474
Adoption Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	5,847	5,541	5,839

Before 2002, petitions for appointment of confidential intermediary and requests for release of adoption information were included in the adoption filings total.

In 2004, 5,804 petitions for adoption were filed and 5,474 adoptions were finalized. The circuit court received 843 requests for the release of adoption information and 283 petitions for the appointment of a confidential intermediary. These requests and petitions are included in the bar graph.

In addition, since 2002, adoption petitions are reported according to the type of adoption, such as direct adoption, step-parent adoption, agency adoption, etc. For this level of detail, see the 2004 Circuit Court Statistical Supplement.

Filings Under the Adoption Code

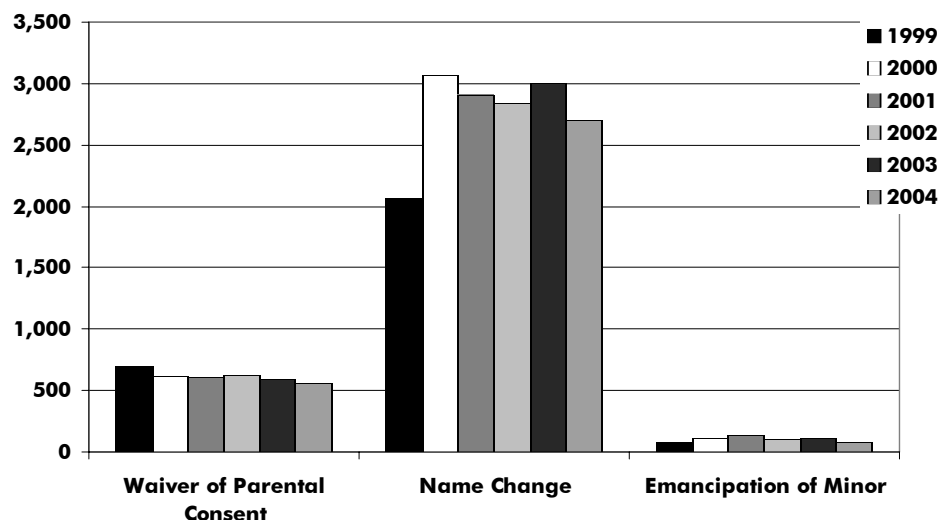
CIRCUIT COURT MISCELLANEOUS FAMILY CASE FILINGS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Waiver of Parental Consent	691	613	600	628	588	560
Name Change	2,058	3,066	2,904	2,838	2,999	2,700
Emancipation of Minor	82	113	138	108	109	80
Infectious Disease	1	4	6	9	3	10
Safe Delivery of New Born	NA	NA	NA	1	2	5
Out-of-County Personal Protection Violations Orders	NA	NA	NA	48	49	39
Total Filings	2,832	3,796	3,648	3,632	3,750	3,394

Miscellaneous filings in the family division of circuit court include petitions filed for a name change, a waiver of parental consent under The Parental Rights Restoration Act, any proceeding under the Status of Minors and Child Support Act (dealing with minors and emancipation), any proceeding conducted for the violation of personal protection when heard by a county other than the one that issued the order, any proceeding under the Public Health Code for treatment of or testing for infectious disease, and any proceeding involving a newborn child surrendered under the Safe Delivery of Newborns Act.

The number of miscellaneous filings decreased by 9.5 percent between 2003 and 2004. Of the 3,394 miscellaneous filings in 2004, 79.6 percent were petitions for a name change.

Circuit Court Family Division Miscellaneous Case Filings



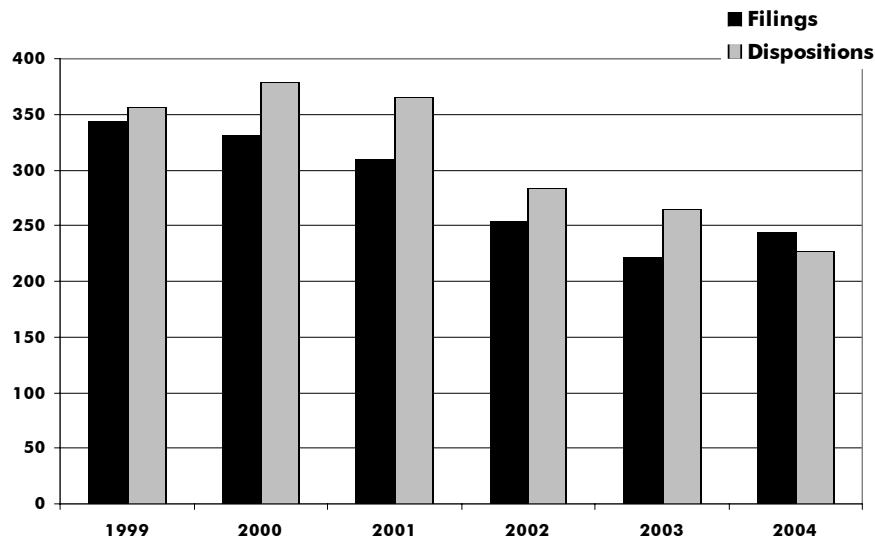
COURT OF CLAIMS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Filings	344	331	310	254	221	244
Dispositions	356	378	365	283	264	226

Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

The Court of Claims is a function of the 30th Circuit Court of Ingham County and has jurisdiction to hear and determine claims against the state or any of its departments. In 2004, 244 cases were filed with the Court of Claims. Of these, 33.2 percent (81 cases) were tax-related. In the previous year, 33 of the filings were tax-related. Highway defect, medical malpractice, contracts, constitutional claims, prisoner litigation, and other claims for damages are also heard by the Court of Claims.

Court of Claims Case Filings and Dispositions



PROBATE COURT

Each Michigan county has a probate court, with the exception of 10 counties that have consolidated to form five probate court districts (see map on page 44). Each probate court district has one judge, and each of the remaining counties have one or more judges depending on the county's weighted caseload.

The probate court has jurisdiction over admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

Probate judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for probate judges.

CASELOAD TRENDS ANALYSIS

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. This change may affect trend analysis that includes data from previous reporting years. In addition, the number of reported case types increased. These reporting changes provide a more precise view of case processing by presenting new filings and pending caseload separately from the total active caseload. The changes also make comparison with data collected before 2002 more difficult. Comparing the number of open (active) cases from year to year provides some useful information about caseload trends.

Before 2002, probate court caseloads were reported by individual case type. However, case filings were reported based on the number of fiduciaries rather than the number of petitions. Beginning in 2002, probate courts continued to report their caseloads by individual case type, but now the new filings represent the number of petitions. The Probate Court Statistical Supplements provide additional detailed information. These Supplements contain a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each probate court. The summary report presents caseload in broad categories, while the detail report presents caseload data by each case type code.

Before 2002, probate courts reported only the number of new filings and the number of active cases. Beginning in 2002, probate courts began reporting reopened cases and the dispositions associated with new filings and reopened cases. As with circuit and district courts, probate courts now report dispositions in cases that have been adjudicated. In many probate court cases, adjudication occurs relatively early; however, once a case is adjudicated, it often remains active for years and the court continues to monitor it. Therefore, in addition to reporting filings, the probate courts provide the number of active estate and trust cases and the number of individuals who have a guardian or conservator. Probate courts also report the number of estate cases for which they provide supervised administration during a given year. These numbers give a more complete picture of the probate courts' total caseload in a given year.

PROBATE COURT



1/31/05

PROBATE COURT JUDGES (as of 1/31/05)**P01 Alcona County**

Hon. James H. Cook

PD5 Alger & Schoolcraft Counties

Hon. William W. Carmody

P03 Allegan County

Hon. Michael L. Buck

P04 Alpena County

Hon. Douglas A. Pugh

P05 Antrim County

Hon. Norman R. Hayes

P06 Arenac County

Hon. Jack William Scully

P07 Baraga County

Hon. Timothy S. Brennan

P08 Barry County

Hon. Stephanie S. Fekkes

(joined the court 3/29/04*)

Hon. Richard H. Shaw

(left the court 3/26/04[®])**P09 Bay County**

Hon. Karen Tighe

P10 Benzie County

Hon. Nancy A. Kida

P11 Berrien County

Hon. Mabel Johnson Mayfield

Hon. Thomas E. Nelson

P12 Branch County

Hon. Frederick L. Wood

P13 Calhoun County

Hon. Phillip E. Harter

Hon. Gary K. Reed

P14 Cass County

Hon. Susan L. Dobrich

PD7 Charlevoix & Emmet Counties

Hon. Frederick R. Mulhauser

P16 Cheboygan County

Hon. Robert John Butts

P17 Chippewa County

Hon. Lowell R. Ulrich

PD17 Clare & Gladwin Counties

Hon. Thomas P. McLaughlin

P19 Clinton County

Hon. Marvin E. Robertson

(left the court 4/17/04[®])

Hon. Lisa Sullivan

(joined the court 4/21/04*)

P20 Crawford County

Hon. John G. Hunter

P21 Delta County

Hon. Robert E. Goebel, Jr.

P22 Dickinson County

Hon. Thomas D. Slagle

(joined the court 3/22/04*)

P23 Eaton County

Hon. Michael F. Skinner

P25 Genesee County

Hon. Allen J. Nelson

Hon. David J. Newblatt

(left the court 12/31/04^{®.2})

Hon. Robert E. Weiss

P27 Gogebic County

Hon. Joel L. Massie

P28 Grand Traverse County

Hon. David L. Stowe

P29 Gratiot County

Hon. Jack T. Arnold

P30 Hillsdale County

Hon. Michael E. Nye

P31 Houghton County

Hon. Charles R. Goodman

P32 Huron County

Hon. David L. Clabuesch

P33 Ingham County

Hon. R. George Economy

Hon. Richard Joseph Garcia

P34 Ionia County

Hon. Nannette M. Bowler

(left the court 12/31/04[®])

Hon. Robert Sykes, Jr.

(joined the court 1/1/05[®])**P35 Iosco County**

Hon. John D. Hamilton

P36 Iron County

Hon. C. Joseph Schwedler

P37 Isabella County

Hon. William T. Ervin

P38 Jackson County

Hon. Susan E. Vandercook

P39 Kalamazoo County

Hon. Patricia N. Conlon

Hon. Donald R. Halstead

Hon. Carolyn H. Williams

(left the court 12/31/04^{®.v})**P40 Kalkaska County**

Hon. Lynne Marie Buday

P41 Kent County

Hon. Nanaruth H. Carpenter

Hon. Patricia D. Gardner

Hon. Janet A. Haynes

Hon. G. Patrick Hillary

P42 Keweenaw County

Hon. James G. Jaaskelainen

P43 Lake County

Hon. Mark S. Wickens

P44 Lapeer County

Hon. Justus C. Scott

P45 Leelanau County

Hon. Joseph E. Deegan

P46 Lenawee County

Hon. Charles W. Jameson

P47 Livingston County

Hon. Susan L. Reck

PD6 Luce & Mackinac Counties

Hon. Thomas B. North

P50 Macomb County

Hon. Kathryn A. George

Hon. Pamela Gilbert O'Sullivan

Hon. Tracey A. Yokich

(left the court 12/31/04^{®.2})**P51 Manistee County**

Hon. John R. DeVries

P52 Marquette County

Hon. Michael J. Anderegg

P53 Mason County

Hon. Mark D. Raven

PD18 Mecosta & Osceola Counties

Hon. LaVail E. Hull

P55 Menominee County

Hon. William A. Hupy

P56 Midland County

Hon. Dorene S. Allen

P57 Missaukee County

Hon. Charles R. Parsons

P58 Monroe County

Hon. John A. Hohman, Jr.

Hon. Pamela A. Moskwa

P59 Montcalm County

Hon. Edward L. Skinner

P60 Montmorency County

Hon. Michael G. Mack

P61 Muskegon County

Hon. Neil G. Mullally

Hon. Gregory Christopher

Pittman

P62 Newaygo County

Hon. Graydon W. Dimkoff

P63 Oakland County

Hon. Barry M. Grant

Hon. Linda S. Hallmark

Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore

Hon. Elizabeth M. Pezzetti

P64 Oceana County

Hon. Walter A. Urlick

P65 Ogemaw County

Hon. Eugene I. Turkelson

P66 Ontonagon County

Hon. Joseph D. Zeleznik

P68 Oscoda County

Hon. Kathryn Joan Root

P69 Otsego County

Hon. Michael K. Cooper

P70 Ottawa County

Hon. Mark A. Feyen

P71 Presque Isle County

Hon. Kenneth A. Radzibon

P72 Roscommon County

Hon. Douglas C. Dosson

P73 Saginaw County

Hon. Faye M. Harrison

Hon. Patrick J. McGraw

P74 St. Clair County

Hon. Elwood L. Brown

Hon. John R. Monaghan

P75 St. Joseph County

Hon. Thomas E. Shumaker

P76 Sanilac County

Hon. R. Terry Maltby

P78 Shiawassee County

Hon. James R. Clatterbaugh

P79 Tuscola County

Hon. W. Wallace Kent, Jr.

P80 Van Buren County

Hon. Frank D. Willis

P81 Washtenaw County

Hon. Nancy Cornelia Francis

Hon. John N. Kirkendall

P82 Wayne County

Hon. June E. Blackwell-Hatcher

Hon. Freddie G. Burton, Jr.

Hon. Patricia B. Campbell

(left the court 12/31/04^{®.2})

Hon. Judy A. Hartsfield

(joined the court 7/26/04*)

Hon. James E. Lacey

Hon. Milton L. Mack, Jr.

Hon. Cathie B. Maher

Hon. Martin T. Maher

Hon. Frances Pitts

(left the court 6/1/04[®])

Hon. David J. Szymanski

P83 Wexford County

Hon. Kenneth L. Tacoma

KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge

D Defeated

E Newly elected to this court

F Deceased

H Reorganization transfer

N New judgeship

R Retired

S Resigned

Z Position Sunsetting

PROBATE COURT ESTATE AND TRUST FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Supervised Administration	5,985	2,269	644	665	672	641
Unsupervised Administration	14,831	16,453	18,625	18,448	18,130	17,728
Small Estates	7,972	7,568	7,656	7,401	6,897	6,828
Trusts Inter Vivos and						
Trusts Testamentary	747	825	788	920	916	991
Determination of Heirs	23	50	43	24	20	25
Total Filings	29,558	27,165	27,756	27,458	26,635	26,213

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Supervised Administration	NA	NA	NA	696	707	685
Unsupervised Administration	NA	NA	NA	18,470	18,175	17,569
Small Estates	NA	NA	NA	7,430	6,973	6,846
Trusts Inter Vivos and						
Trusts Testamentary	NA	NA	NA	604	739	734
Determination of Heirs	NA	NA	NA	18	14	17
Total Dispositions	32,103	NA	NA	27,218	26,608	25,851

Before 2001, Small Estates were referred to as Assignment of Property.

In 1998, the Legislature enacted the Estates and Protected Individuals Code, effective April 1, 2000. Since then, the number of estates requesting supervised administration continues to decrease, while the number of estates requesting unsupervised administration continues to increase. Between 2001 and 2004, an average of 656 estates per year requested supervised administration in the initial petition. By contrast, the number of estates requesting unsupervised administration in the initial petition increased to an average of 18,233 per year for the same period.

In addition to new filings, the probate courts' active pending caseload is used to assess the courts' judicial and administrative workload. Of the 38,446 active estates and trusts at the end of 2004, 4,542 were supervised at some point during the year. In 641 of these estates, supervision was requested when the case was filed. Probate courts also conducted follow-up procedures associated with the administration of these open estates.

PROBATE COURT TRUST REGISTRATIONS AND WILLS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Trust Registrations and Wills	11,781	9,826	8,982	13,211	13,195	12,543

Before 2002, these included trust registrations and wills filed for safekeeping. In 2002, wills delivered after the death of the testator were included as well.

In 2004, the courts reported 12,420 wills filed for safekeeping and wills delivered after the death of the testator. The courts also registered 123 trusts.

PROBATE COURT GUARDIANSHIP, CONSERVATORSHIP, AND PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Guardianships	19,856	18,166	17,301	17,704	17,176	16,322
Conservatorships	7,532	7,492	6,552	6,375	6,084	5,441
Protective Proceedings	249	381	478	465	425	427
Total Filings	27,637	26,039	24,331	24,544	23,685	22,190

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Guardianships	NA	NA	NA	16,970	17,521	15,785
Conservatorships	NA	NA	NA	5,930	5,744	5,207
Protective Proceedings	NA	NA	NA	358	380	374
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	23,258	23,645	21,366

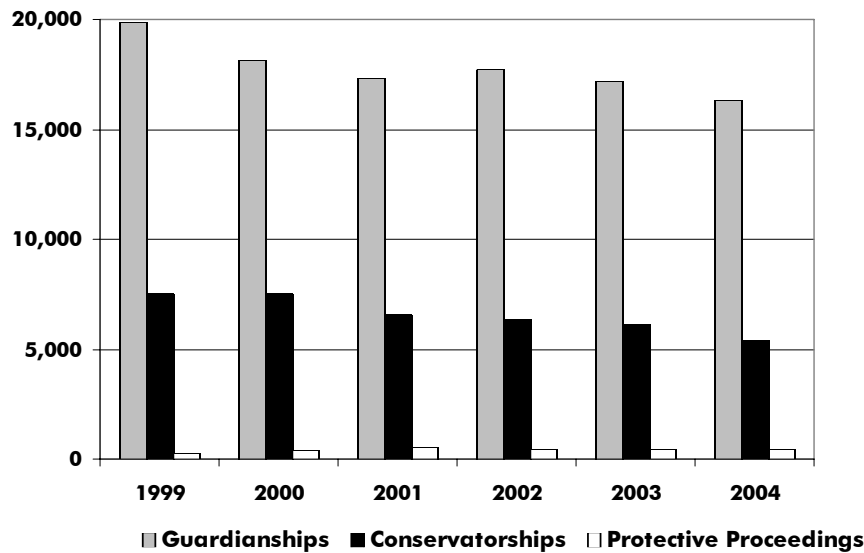
Guardianships include both adult and minor guardianships.

Conservatorships include both adult and minor conservatorships.

The number of petitions filed for guardianships and conservatorships continued to decrease. The number of petitions for adult and minor guardianships decreased by an average of 3.8 percent per year between 1999 and 2004. The number of petitions for adult and minor conservatorships decreased by an average of 6.2 percent per year during the same time period. The number of petitions filed for protective orders did not fluctuate between 2003, when 425 were filed, and 2004, when 427 were filed.

At the end of 2004, there were 28,846 adults with a full or limited guardian, 32,413 minors with a guardian, and 19,517 persons with a developmental disability who had a guardian. At the end of 2004, there were 15,419 adults and 15,976 minors with a conservator.

*Filings for Probate Court Guardianships,
Conservatorships, and Protective Proceedings*



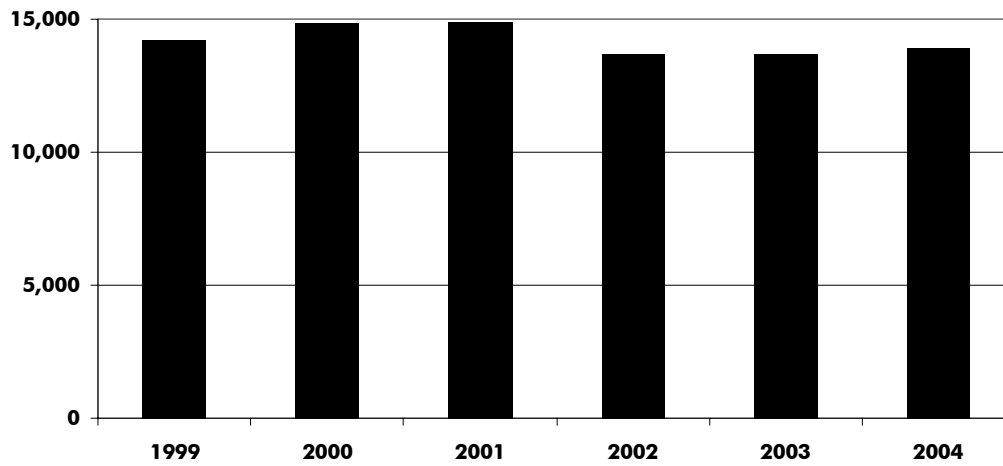
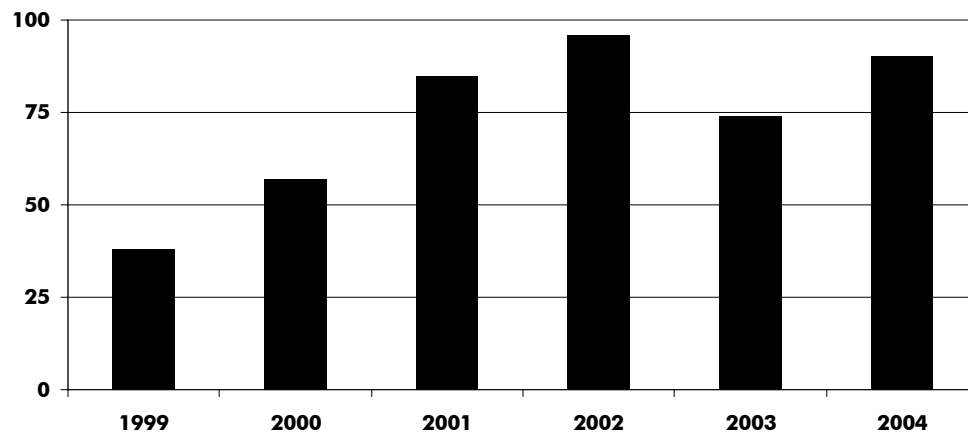
PROBATE COURT MENTAL HEALTH FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mental Health	14,227	14,819	14,914	13,660	13,707	13,893
Judicial Admission	38	57	85	96	74	90
Total Filings	14,265	14,876	14,999	13,756	13,781	13,983

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Mental Health	NA	NA	NA	12,753	13,136	13,366
Judicial Admission	NA	NA	NA	61	46	68
Total Dispositions	NA	NA	NA	12,814	13,182	13,434

Between 1999 and 2004, an annual average of 14,203 petitions were filed seeking commitment of persons with a mental illness. In 2004, in addition to petitions for new commitments, probate courts received 572 petitions for a second order of commitment and 1,407 petitions for a continuing order of commitment. The courts granted 568 petitions for a second order and 1,394 petitions for a continuing order.

A total of 3,196 of supplemental petitions were filed for court-ordered examination on an application for hospitalization and court-ordered transportation of a minor.

Probate Court Mental Health Petition Filings*Probate Court Judicial Admission Petition Dispositions*

PROBATE COURT CIVIL AND MISCELLANEOUS FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

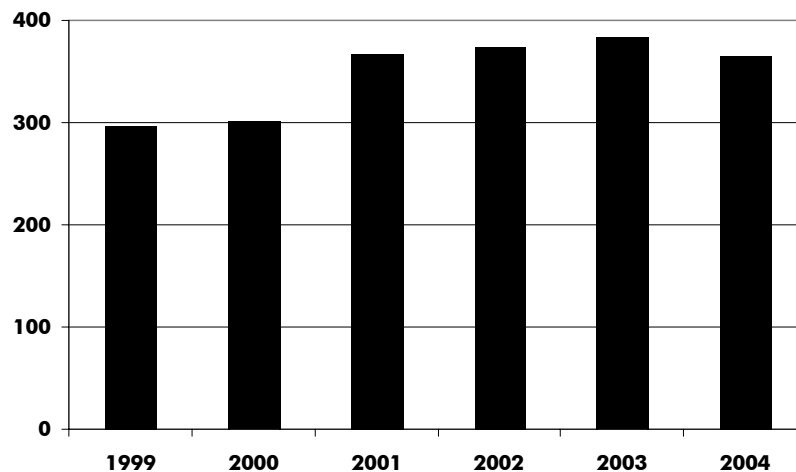
Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Civil	296	302	367	374	384	365
Miscellaneous	NA	NA	NA	533	479	511
Total Filings	296	302	367	907	863	876

Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Civil	149	NA	NA	389	260	260
Miscellaneous	NA	NA	NA	471	409	429
Total Dispositions	149	NA	NA	860	669	689

Miscellaneous includes death by accident/disaster, filings of letters by foreign personal representative, kidney transplants, review of drain commissioner, review of mental health financial liability, etc.

In 2004, for the first time since 1999, the number of civil actions filed in probate court decreased. In 2004, there were 511 filings for miscellaneous matters, including petitions seeking judicial decisions regarding death by accident or disaster, kidney transplants, review of drain commission proceedings, review of mental health financial liability, secret marriages, etc. Before 2002, these matters were either not reported or they were reported separately.

Probate Court Civil Case Filings



DISTRICT COURT

The district court is often referred to as “The People’s Court,” in part because citizens have more contact with the district court than any other court in the state, and in part because many citizens go to district court without an attorney. The district court has exclusive jurisdiction over all civil claims up to \$25,000, including small claims, landlord-tenant disputes, land contract disputes, and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony.

The district court small claims division handles cases up to \$3,000. In these cases, the litigants waive their right to a jury and attorney representation. They also waive rules of evidence and any right to appeal the district judge’s decision. If either party objects, the case is heard in the general civil division of the court where the parties retain these rights. If a district court attorney magistrate enters the judgment, the case may be appealed to the district judge.

Civil infractions are offenses formerly considered criminal, but decriminalized by statute or local ordinance, with no jail penalty associated with the offense. The most common civil infractions are minor traffic matters, such as speeding, failure to stop or yield, careless driving, and equipment and parking violations. Some other violations in state law or local ordinance may be decriminalized, such as land-use rules enforced by the Department of Natural Resources and blight or junk violations. No jury trial is allowed on a civil infraction, and the burden of proof is by a preponderance of the evidence instead of beyond a reasonable doubt. Most of these cases are handled in an informal hearing before a district court magistrate, although by request or on appeal the case will be heard by a judge.

District courts handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including misdemeanors where the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail. In these cases, the court conducts the initial arraignment, setting and acceptance of bail, trial, and sentencing. Typical district court misdemeanor offenses include driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving on a suspended license, assault, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana. The district courts also conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, after which, if the prosecutor provides sufficient proofs, the felony case is transferred to the circuit court for arraignment and trial. The district courts also handle extradition to another state for a pending criminal charge, coroner inquests, and issuance of search warrants. The court may appoint an attorney for persons who are likely to go to jail if convicted and cannot afford legal counsel.

District court judges may allow clerks to accept admissions of responsibility to civil infractions, guilty pleas to certain misdemeanor violations, and payments to satisfy judgments. For little or no cost, clerks have a variety of district court forms for the public. Clerks may not give parties legal advice. Many citizens interact most frequently with clerical staff, particularly on traffic civil infractions when no hearing is requested. Clerical staff are required by law to provide information to various state agencies, such as the Department of State on motor vehicle violations and the Department of State Police on criminal convictions.

Most district courts have a probation department to follow up with persons who are on probation for an offense. A judge can order a defendant to fulfill various conditions, including fines, classes, and treatment or counseling. With some exceptions, probation cannot exceed two years.

District judges have statutory authority to appoint a district court magistrate. Magistrates may issue search warrants and arrest warrants when authorized by the county prosecutor or municipal attorney. They may also arraign and set bail, accept guilty pleas to some offenses, and sentence most traffic, motor carrier, and snowmobile violations, as well as dog, game, and marine violations. If the district court magistrate is an attorney licensed in Michigan, the magistrate may hear small claims cases. At the direction of the chief judge, the magistrate may also perform other duties as specified in state law.

District judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets the salary for district judges.

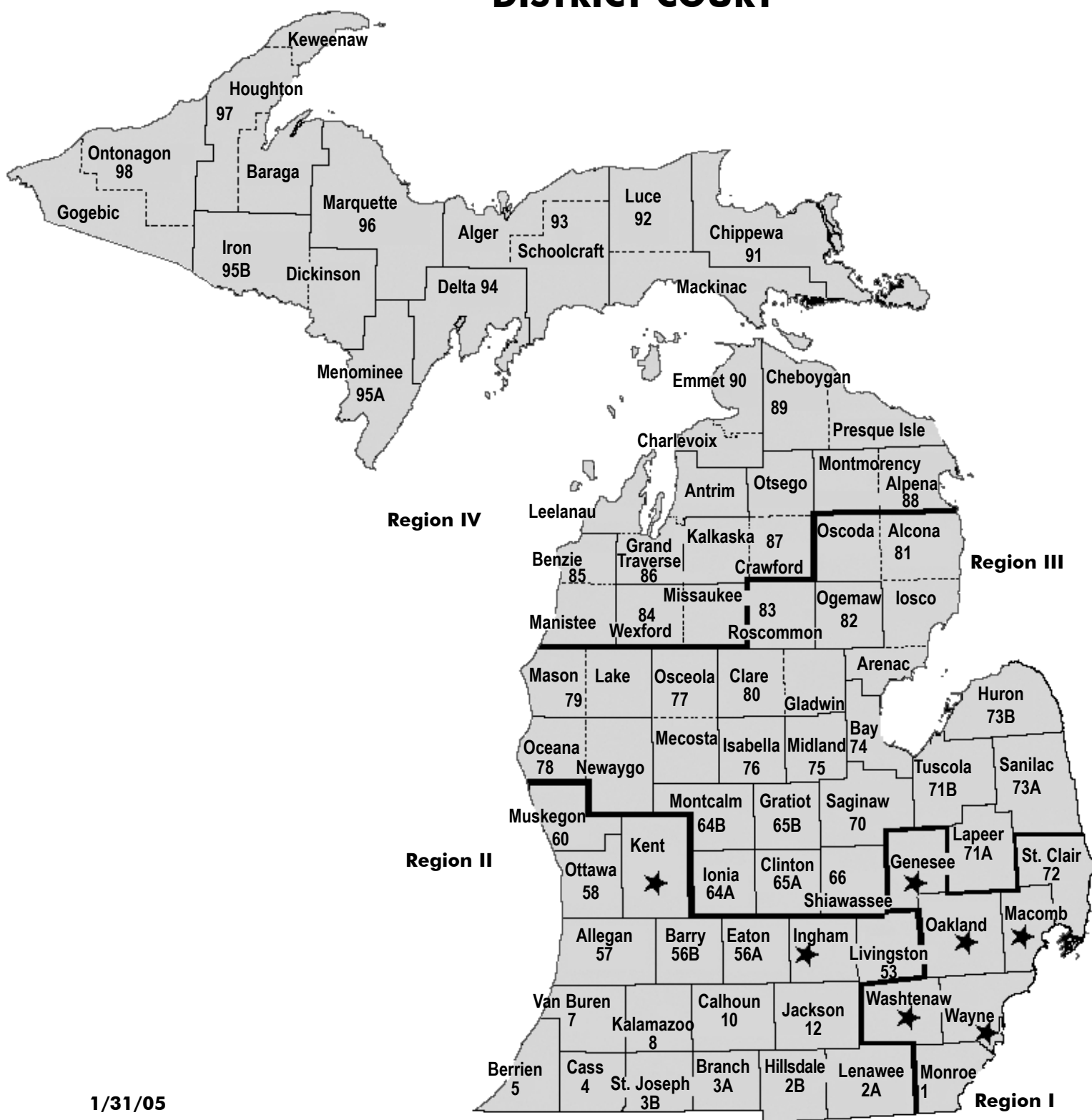
Caseload Trends Analysis

In 2002, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) revised the way Michigan trial courts report their caseloads. This change may affect trend analysis that includes data from previous reporting years. In addition, the number of reported case types increased.

Before 2002, district court caseloads were reported under the broad categories of felony, misdemeanor, non-traffic civil infraction, traffic misdemeanors and civil infractions, traffic alcohol offenses, general civil, small claims, summary proceedings, and parking. Beginning in 2002, caseloads are now reported by individual case type. These individual case types are combined so that data reported after 2001 may be compared against categories from previous years. The District Court Statistical Supplements provide additional detailed information. These annual supplements contain both a summary report and a detail report of the caseload for each district court. The summary report presents caseload in the broad categories published in previous years' reports, while the detail report presents the caseload data by each case type code.

Before 2002, case dispositions were reported by "process," such as judicial process, magistrate process, or clerk process. Beginning in 2002, case dispositions are now reported by "method," regardless of whether the method is handled by a judge, magistrate, or clerk. Case dispositions also now include cases that become inactive due to circumstances outside the court's control, such as a criminal defendant's failure to appear in court or bankruptcy proceedings that stay a civil case. Such cases do not reappear in caseload statistics until designated events occur, such as arraignment on the warrant. At that point, the case is counted reopened. The current time guidelines criteria are from case initiation to case adjudication. As a result, caseload reports provide a more precise pending caseload and accurate measures of how long cases are before the court and how long it takes to resolve them. To compare total dispositions reported after 2001 to numbers reported in previous years, one must subtract cases disposed of as inactive.

DISTRICT COURT

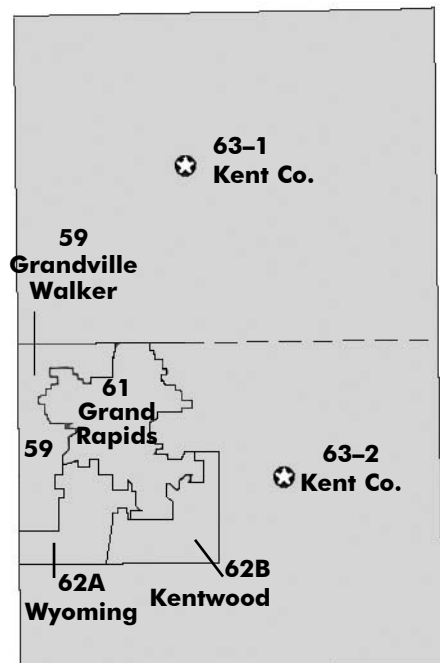


★ See detail maps.

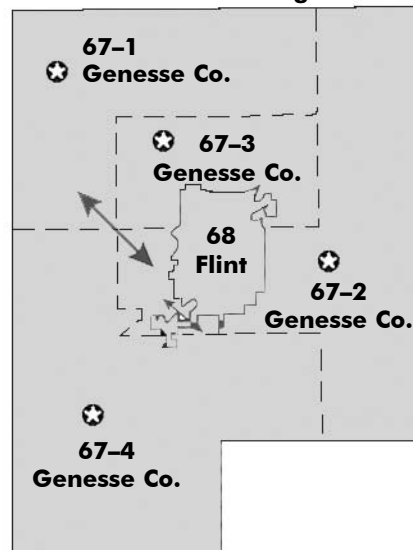
2ND & 3RD CLASS DISTRICT COURT

Detail Map for Genesee, Ingham, Kent, and Oakland Counties

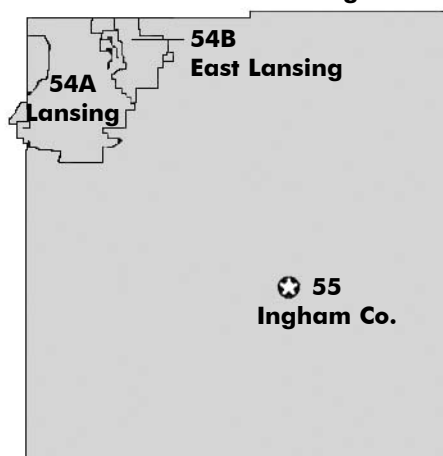
Kent 5 Courts
12 Judges



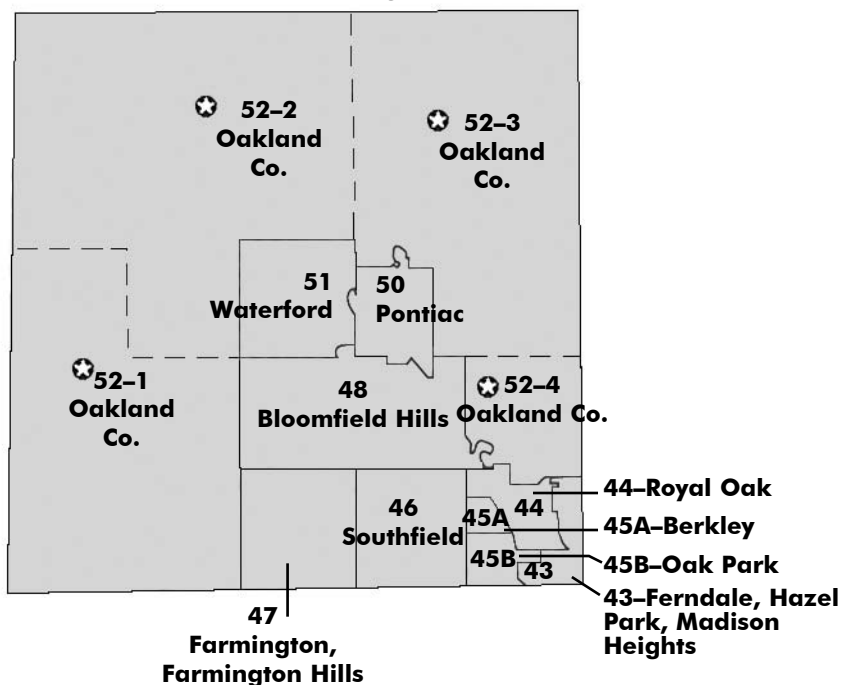
Genesee 2 Courts
12 Judges



Ingham 3 Courts
9 Judges



Oakland 10 Courts
33 Judges



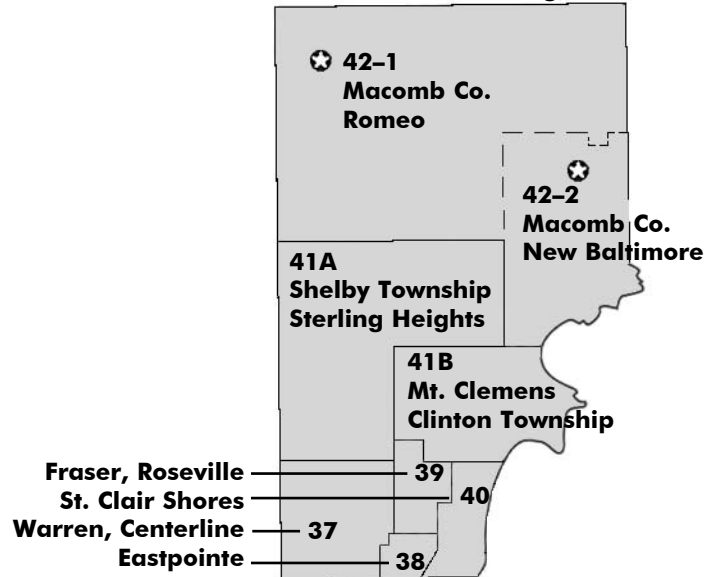
★ Second Class District; all others are Third Class Districts

1/31/05

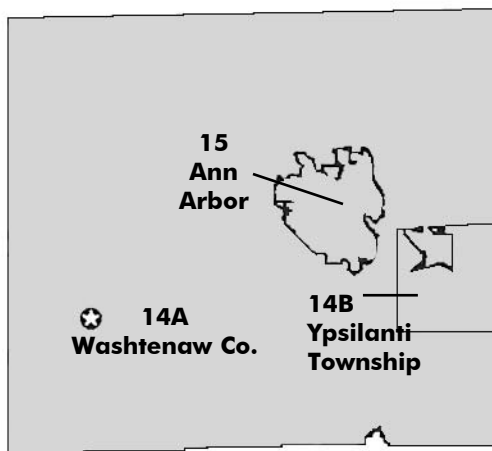
2ND & 3RD CLASS DISTRICT COURT

Detail Map for Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties

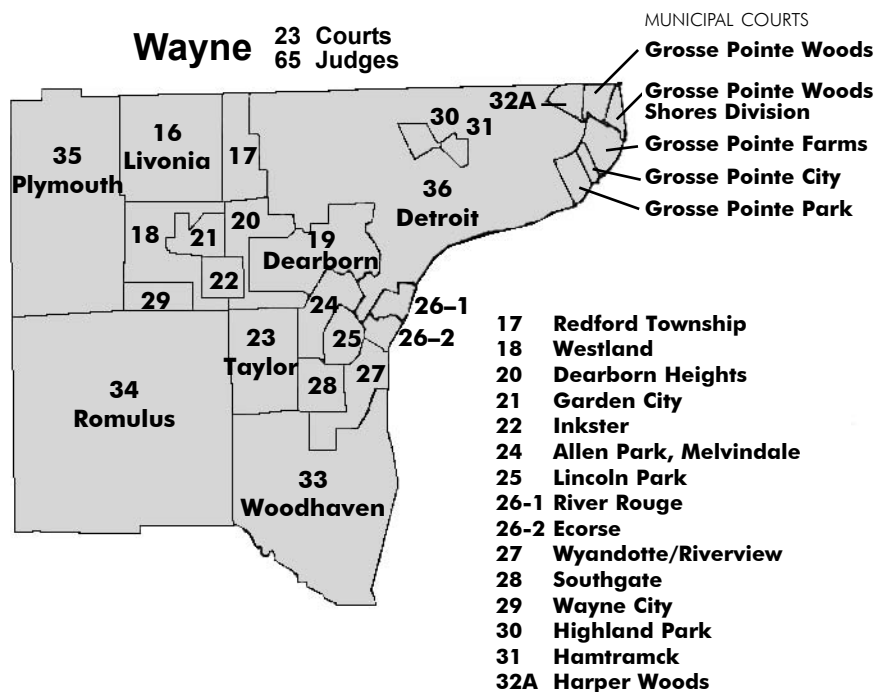
Macomb 7 Courts
19 Judges



Washtenaw 3 Courts
7 Judges



Wayne 23 Courts
65 Judges



⬠ Second Class District; all others are Third Class Districts

1/31/05

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (as of 1/31/05)**D01**

Hon. Mark S. Braunlich
Hon. Terrence P. Bronson
Hon. Jack Vitale

D02A

Hon. Natalia M. Koselka
Hon. James E. Sheridan

D02B

Hon. Donald L. Sanderson

D03A

Hon. David T. Coyle

D03B

Hon. Jeffrey C. Middleton
Hon. William D. Welty

D04

Hon. Paul E. Deats

D05

Hon. Gary J. Bruce
Hon. Angela Pasula
Hon. Scott Schofield
Hon. Lynda A. Tolen
Hon. Dennis M. Wiley

D07

Hon. Arthur H. Clarke III
Hon. Robert T. Hentchel

D08-1

Hon. Quinn E. Benson
Hon. Anne E. Blatch Ford
(joined the court 1/1/05⁵)
Hon. Ann L. Hannon
(left the court 12/31/04⁸)
Hon. Carol A. Husum

D08-2

Hon. Robert C. Kropf

D08-3

Hon. Paul J. Bridenstine
Hon. Richard A. Santoni
Hon. Vincent C. Westra

D10

Hon. Samuel I. Durham, Jr.
Hon. John R. Holmes
Hon. Franklin K. Line, Jr.
Hon. Marvin Ratner

D12

Hon. Charles J. Falahee, Jr.
Hon. Joseph S. Filip
(joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

KEY

* Appointed to succeed another judge
D Defeated
E Newly elected to this court
F Deceased
H Reorganization transfer
N New judgeship
R Retired
S Resigned
X Term expired
Z Position Sunsetting

D12 (continued)

Hon. Lysle G. Hall
(left the court 12/31/04⁸)
Hon. James M. Justin
Hon. R. Darryl Mazur

D14A

Hon. Richard E. Conlin
Hon. J. Cedric Simpson
Hon. Kirk W. Tabbey

D14B

Hon. John B. Collins

D15

Hon. Julie Creal Goodridge
Hon. Elizabeth Pollard Hines
Hon. Ann E. Mattson

D16

Hon. Robert B. Brzezinski
Hon. Kathleen J. McCann

D17

Hon. Karen Khalil
Hon. Charlotte L. Wirth

D18

Hon. C. Charles Bokos
Hon. Gail McKnight

D19

Hon. William C. Hultgren
Hon. Virginia A. Sobotka
(left the court 1/10/05^{8,9})
Hon. Mark W. Somers

D20

Hon. Leo K. Foran
Hon. Mark J. Plawewski

D21

Hon. Richard L. Hammer, Jr.

D22

Hon. Sylvia A. James

D23

Hon. Geno Salomone
Hon. William J. Sutherland

D24

Hon. John T. Courtright
Hon. Anthony S. Guerriero
(left the court 12/31/04⁹)
Hon. Richard Page
(joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

D25

Hon. David A. Bajorek
Hon. David J. Zelenak
(joined the court 3/22/04*)

D26-1

Hon. Raymond A. Charron

D26-2

Hon. Michael F. Ciungan

D27

Hon. Randy L. Kalmbach

D28

Hon. James A. Kandrevas

D29

Hon. Laura R. Mack

D30

Hon. Brigitte R. Officer

D31

Hon. Paul J. Paruk

D32A

Hon. Roger J. La Rose

D33

Hon. James Kurt Kersten
Hon. Michael K. McNally
Hon. Edward J. Nykiel
(joined the court 1/1/05⁵)
Hon. Donald L. Swank
(left the court 11/1/04⁸)

D34

Hon. Tina Brooks Green
Hon. Brian A. Oakley
Hon. David M. Parrott

D35

Hon. Michael J. Gerou
Hon. Ronald W. Lowe
Hon. John E. MacDonald

D36

Hon. Deborah Ross Adams
Hon. Lydia Nance Adams
Hon. Trudy DunCombe Archer
Hon. Marilyn E. Atkins
Hon. Joseph N. Baltimore
Hon. Nancy McCaughan Blount
Hon. David Martin Bradfield
Hon. Izetta F. Bright
Hon. Donald Coleman
Hon. Nancy A. Farmer
Hon. Deborah Geraldine Ford
(joined the court 1/1/05⁵)
Hon. Ruth Ann Garrett
Hon. Jimmylee Gray
Hon. Katherine L. Hansen
(joined the court 4/23/04*)
Hon. Beverley J. Hayes-Sipes
Hon. Paula G. Humphries
Hon. Patricia L. Jefferson
Hon. Vanesa F. Jones-Bradley
Hon. Deborah L. Langston
Hon. Willie G. Lipscomb, Jr.
Hon. Leonia J. Lloyd
Hon. Miriam B. Martin-Clark
Hon. Wade H. McCree
(left the court 7/2/04*)
Hon. Donna R. Milhouse
Hon. B. Pennie Millender
Hon. Marion A. Moore
(left the court 12/31/04⁸)
Hon. Jeanette O'Banner-Owens
Hon. John R. Perry
(left the court 4/12/04⁵)
Hon. Mark A. Randon
Hon. Kevin F. Robbins
Hon. David S. Robinson, Jr.

D36 (continued)

Hon. C. Lorene Royster
Hon. Rudolph A. Serra
(joined the court 7/12/04*)
Hon. Ted Wallace

D37

Hon. John M. Chmura
Hon. Jennifer Faunce
Hon. Dawnn M. Gruenburg
Hon. Walter A. Jakubowski Jr.

D38

Hon. Norene S. Redman
(joined the court 1/1/04⁵)

D39

Hon. Joseph F. Boedeker
Hon. Marco A. Santia
Hon. Catherine B. Steenland

D40

Hon. Mark A. Fratarcangeli
Hon. Joseph Craigen Oster

D41A

Hon. Michael S. Maceroni
Hon. Douglas P. Shepherd
Hon. Stephen S. Sierawski
Hon. Kimberley Anne Wiegard

D41B

Hon. William H. Cannon
(left the court 1/31/05^{8,9})
Hon. Linda Davis
Hon. John C. Foster

D42-1

Hon. Denis R. LeDuc

D42-2

Hon. Paul Cassidy

D43

Hon. Keith P. Hunt
Hon. Joseph Longo
Hon. Robert J. Turner

D44

Hon. Terrence H. Brennan
Hon. Daniel Sawicki

D45A

Hon. William R. Sauer

D45B

Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel
Hon. David M. Gubow

D46

Hon. Stephen C. Cooper
Hon. Sheila R. Johnson
Hon. Susan M. Moiseev

D47

Hon. James Brady
Hon. Marla E. Parker

D48

Hon. Edward Avadenka
(left the court 12/31/04⁸)
Hon. Marc Barron
(joined the court 1/1/05⁵)

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (as of 1/31/05)**D48** (continued)

Hon. Diane D'Agostini
Hon. Kimberly Small

D50

Hon. Leo Bowman
Hon. Christopher C. Brown
(left the court 2/1/04^R)
Hon. Michael C. Martinez
(joined the court 3/22/04*)
Hon. Preston G. Thomas
Hon. Cynthia T. Walker

D51

Hon. Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.
Hon. Phyllis C. McMillen

D52-1

Hon. Robert Bondy
Hon. Brian W. MacKenzie
Hon. Dennis N. Powers

D52-2

Hon. Michael Batchik
(left the court 12/31/04^R)
Hon. Dana Fortinberry
Hon. Kelley Renae Kostin
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)

D52-3

Hon. Lisa L. Asadoorian
Hon. Nancy Tolwin Carniak
Hon. Julie A. Nicholson

D52-4

Hon. William E. Bolle
Hon. Dennis C. Drury
Hon. Michael A. Martone

D53

Hon. Frank R. Del Vero
(left the court 7/31/04^R)
Hon. L. Suzanne Geddis
(joined the court 1/1/04^E)
Hon. Michael K. Hegarty
Hon. A. John Pikkarainen

D54A

Hon. Louise Alderson
Hon. Patrick F. Cherry
Hon. Frank J. DeLuca
Hon. Charles F. Filice
Hon. Amy R. Krause

D54B

Hon. Richard D. Ball
Hon. David L. Jordon

D55

Hon. Thomas E. Brennan, Jr.
(left the court 12/31/04^R)
Hon. Pamela J. McCabe

D56A

Hon. Rosemarie E. Aquilina
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)
Hon. Paul F. Berger
Hon. Harvey J. Hoffman

D56B

Hon. Gary R. Holman

D57

Hon. Stephen E. Sheridan
Hon. Gary A. Stewart

D58

Hon. Susan A. Jonas
Hon. Richard J. Kloote
Hon. Bradley S. Knoll
Hon. Kenneth D. Post

D59

Hon. Peter P. Versluis

D60

Hon. Harold F. Closz III
Hon. Fredric A. Grimm, Jr.
Hon. Michael Jeffrey Nolan
Hon. Andrew Wierengo

D61

Hon. Patrick C. Bowler
Hon. David J. Buter
Hon. J. Michael Christensen
Hon. Jeanine Nemesi LaVile
Hon. Ben H. Logan, II
Hon. Donald H. Passenger

D62A

Hon. M. Scott Bowen
Hon. Jack R. Jelsema
Hon. Steven M. Timmers

D62B

Hon. William G. Kelly

D63-1

Hon. Steven R. Servaas

D63-2

Hon. Sara J. Smolenski

D64A

Hon. Raymond P. Voet

D64B

Hon. Donald R. Hemingsen

D65A

Hon. Richard D. Wells

D65B

Hon. James B. Mackie

D66

Hon. Ward L. Clarkson
Hon. Terrance P. Dignan

D67-1

Hon. David J. Goggins

D67-2

Hon. John L. Conover
Hon. Richard L. Hughes

D67-3

Hon. Larry Stecco

D67-4

Hon. Mark C. McCabe
Hon. Christopher Odette

D68

Hon. Peter Anastor
(left the court 1/31/04^{R,2})
Hon. William H. Crawford, II

D68 (continued)

Hon. Herman Marable, Jr.
Hon. Michael D. McAra
Hon. Nathaniel C. Perry, III
Hon. Ramona M. Roberts

D70-1

Hon. Terry L. Clark
Hon. M. Randall Jurrens
Hon. M. T. Thompson, Jr.

D70-2

Hon. Christopher S. Boyd
Hon. Darnell Jackson
Hon. Kyle Higgs Tarrant

D71A

Hon. Laura Cheger Barnard
Hon. John T. Connolly

D71B

Hon. Kim David Glaspie

D72

Hon. Richard A. Cooley, Jr.
Hon. David C. Nicholson
Hon. Cynthia Siemen Platzer

D73A

Hon. James A. Marcus

D73B

Hon. Karl E. Kraus

D74

Hon. Craig D. Alston
Hon. Timothy J. Kelly
Hon. Scott J. Newcombe

D75

Hon. John Henry Hart
Hon. Philip M. Van Dam
(left the court 12/12/04^{E,V})

D76

Hon. William R. Rush

D77

Hon. Susan H. Grant

D78

Hon. H. Kevin Drake

D79

Hon. Peter J. Wadel

D80

Hon. Gary J. Allen

D81

Hon. Allen C. Yenior

D82

Hon. Richard E. Noble

D83

Hon. Daniel L. Sutton

D84

Hon. David A. Hogg

D85

Hon. Brent V. Danielson

D86**D86** (continued)

Hon. John D. Foresman
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)
Hon. Thomas S. Gilbert
(left the court 12/31/04^N)
Hon. Michael J. Haley
Hon. Thomas J. Phillips

D87

Hon. Patricia A. Morse

D88

Hon. Theodore O. Johnson

D89

Hon. Harold A. Johnson, Jr.

D90

Hon. Richard W. May

D91

Hon. Michael W. MacDonald

D92

Hon. Barbara J. Brown
(left the court 12/31/04^N)
Hon. Beth Gibson
(joined the court 1/1/05^E)

D93

Hon. Mark E. Luoma

D94

Hon. Glen A. Pearson

D95A

Hon. Jeffrey G. Barstow

D95B

Hon. Michael J. Kusz

D96

Hon. Dennis H. Girard
Hon. Roger W. Kangas

D97

Hon. Phillip L. Kukkonen

D98

Hon. Anders B. Tingstad, Jr.

DISTRICT COURT NON-TRAFFIC FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Felony and Extradition	68,327	71,356	74,991	78,772	78,121	81,535
Misdemeanor	266,245	312,788	333,264	319,721	336,827	264,430
Civil Infractions	15,300	17,649	24,644	32,428	43,798	44,164
Total Filings	349,872	401,793	432,899	430,921	458,746	390,129

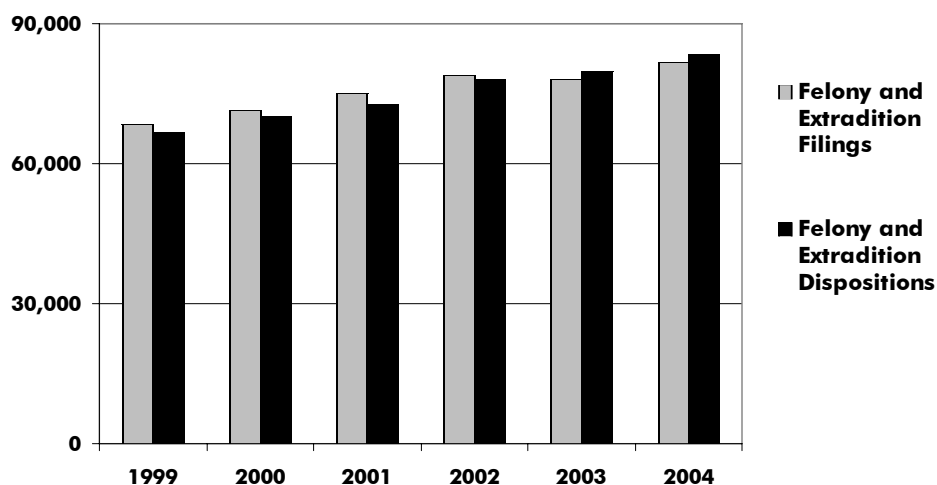
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Felony and Extradition	66,557	70,236	72,513	78,061	79,911	83,505
Misdemeanor	250,145	289,701	302,148	323,163	291,309	267,942
Civil Infractions	14,919	17,245	22,692	33,784	42,105	51,076
Total Dispositions	331,621	377,182	397,353	435,008	413,325	402,523

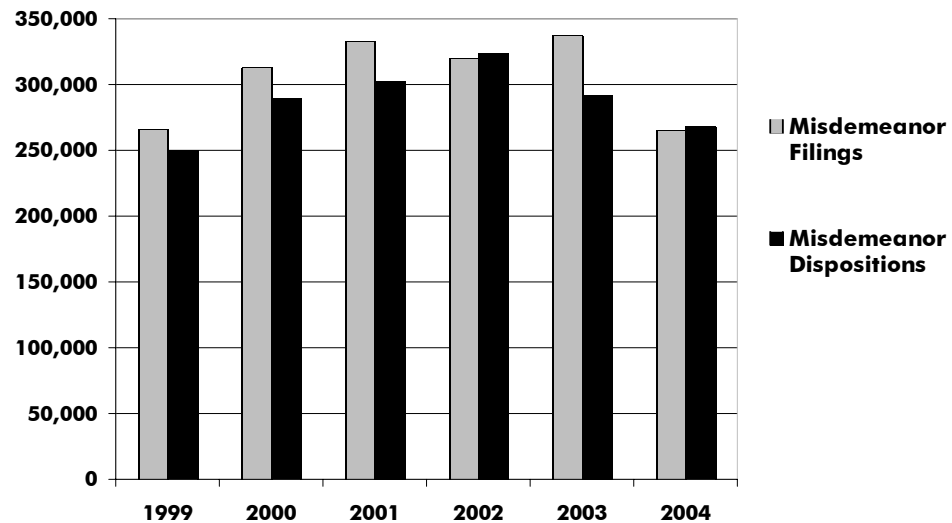
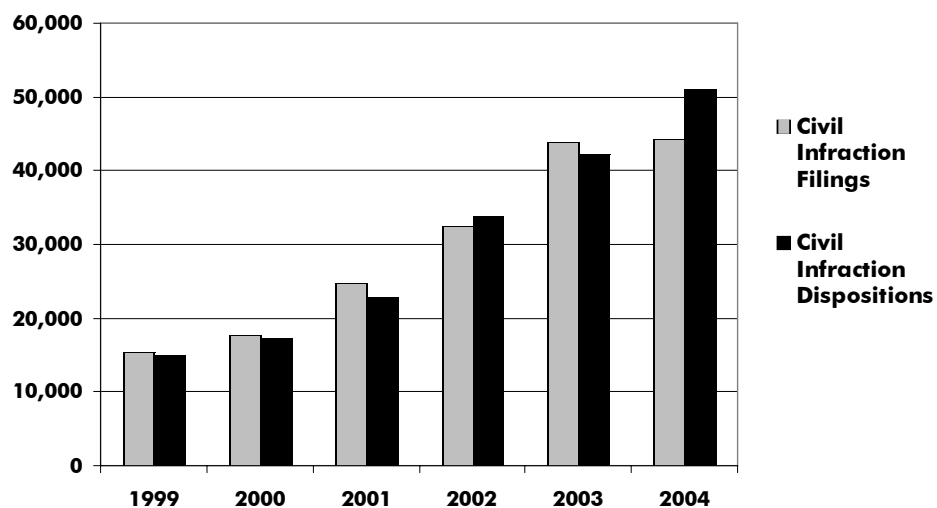
Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

In 2004, district courts received a total of 390,129 non-traffic felony, misdemeanor, and civil infraction case filings. The number of dispositions exceeded filings by 12,394 cases. Non-traffic misdemeanor cases decreased by 21.5 percent from 2003 to 2004, when 264,430 cases were filed. Non-traffic felony cases increased to 81,535 in 2004.

Despite an average annual increase of 30.4 percent in non-traffic civil infraction filings between 1999 and 2003, the number filed in 2004 (44,164) was less than 1 percent greater than the previous year.

District Court Non-Traffic Felony Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Non-Traffic Misdemeanor Case Filings and Dispositions*District Court Non-Traffic Civil Infraction Case Filings and Dispositions*

DISTRICT COURT TRAFFIC FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Misdemeanor	516,146	454,974	431,459	437,003	435,042	295,868
Civil Infraction	1,919,164	1,876,729	1,820,155	1,738,622	1,742,497	1,715,278
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	65,466	63,687	60,795	60,572	59,788	56,140
Total Filings	2,500,776	2,395,390	2,312,409	2,236,197	2,237,327	2,067,286

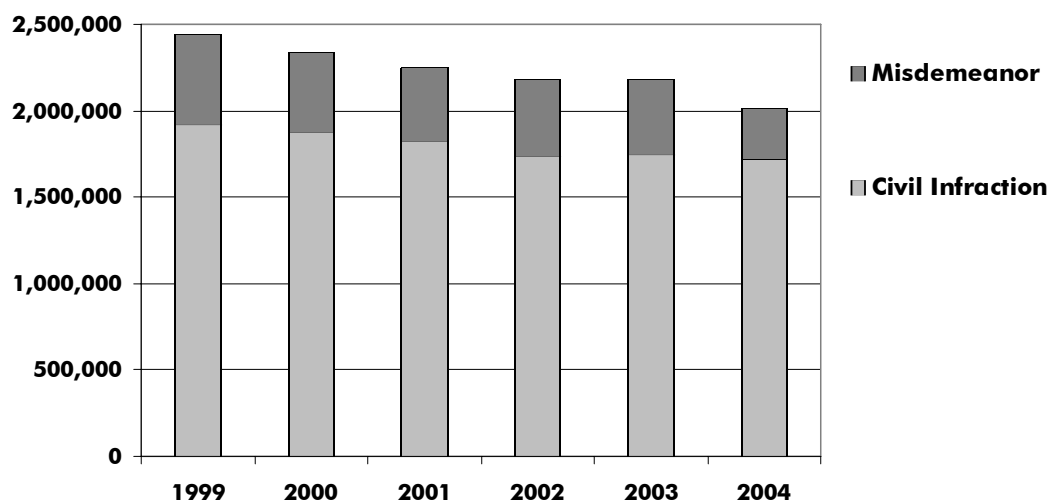
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Misdemeanor and Civil Infraction	2,380,172	2,355,175	2,258,267	2,190,761	2,193,611	2,144,265
OWI Misdemeanor and Felony	62,192	61,841	60,751	60,879	58,939	58,161
Total Dispositions	2,442,364	2,417,016	2,319,018	2,251,640	2,252,550	2,202,426

Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

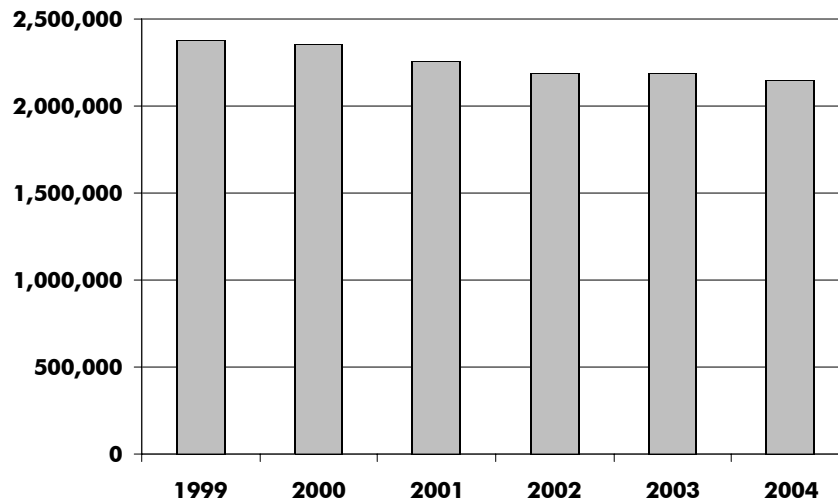
Misdemeanor traffic filings decreased by 32 percent or 139,174 filings from 2003 to 2004. Civil infraction traffic filings remained relatively stable during the same time period. District courts disposed of 2,144,265 civil traffic and misdemeanor traffic infractions.

Drunk driving cases (OWI) filed in district court decreased to 56,140 in 2004, lower than for any year between 1999 and 2004. Of these filings, 7.4 percent or 4,143 were felony cases. District courts disposed of 58,161 drunk driving cases in 2004.

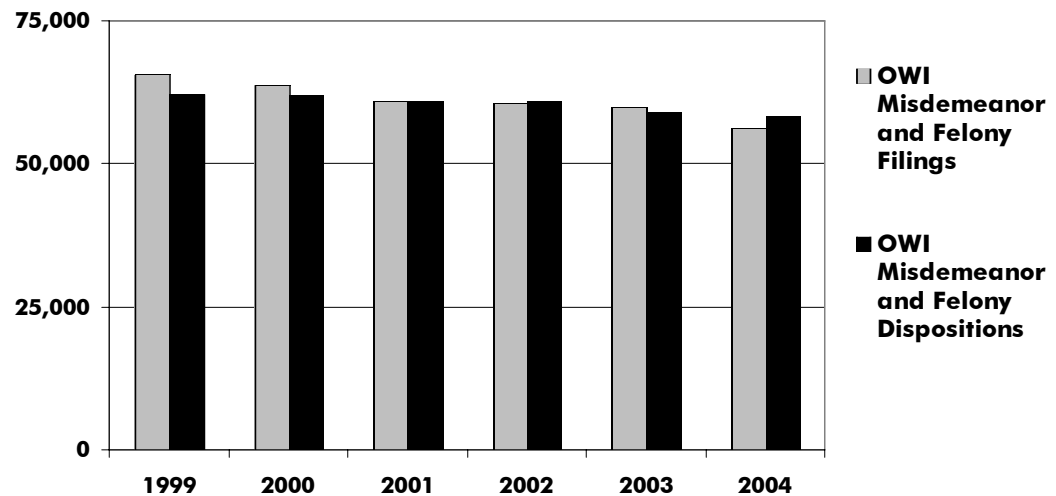
District Court Traffic Misdemeanor and Civil Infraction Case Filings



*District Court Traffic Misdemeanor and Civil
Infraction Case Dispositions*



District Court OWI Case Filings and Dispositions



DISTRICT COURT CIVIL FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

Filings	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
General Civil	176,413	185,710	213,486	264,061	298,802	277,855
Small Claims	89,842	98,173	105,971	104,208	101,680	93,935
Summary Proceedings	181,565	183,480	198,861	206,276	217,596	211,213
Total Filings	447,820	467,363	518,318	574,545	618,078	583,003

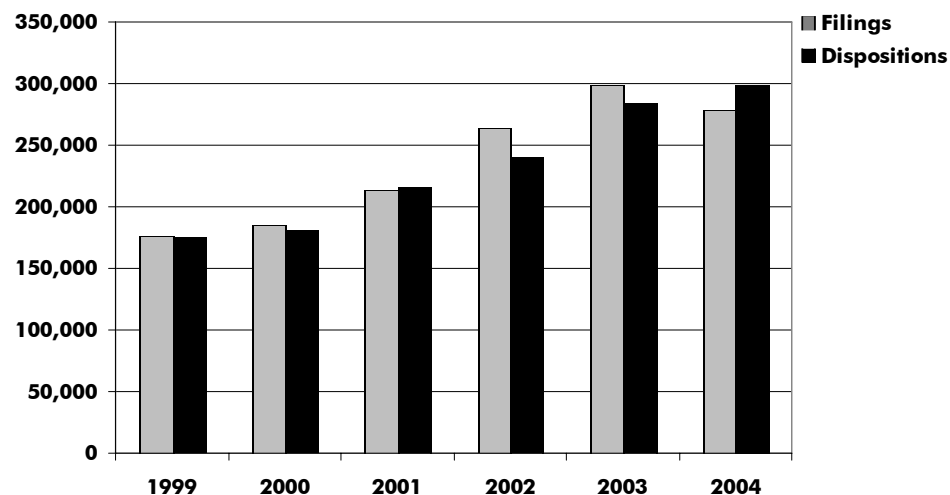
Dispositions	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
General Civil	175,349	180,291	215,466	239,577	283,576	299,321
Small Claims	88,804	96,020	105,601	105,711	103,089	97,233
Summary Proceedings	172,925	177,773	193,487	196,504	196,323	193,667
Total Dispositions	437,078	454,084	514,554	541,792	582,988	590,221

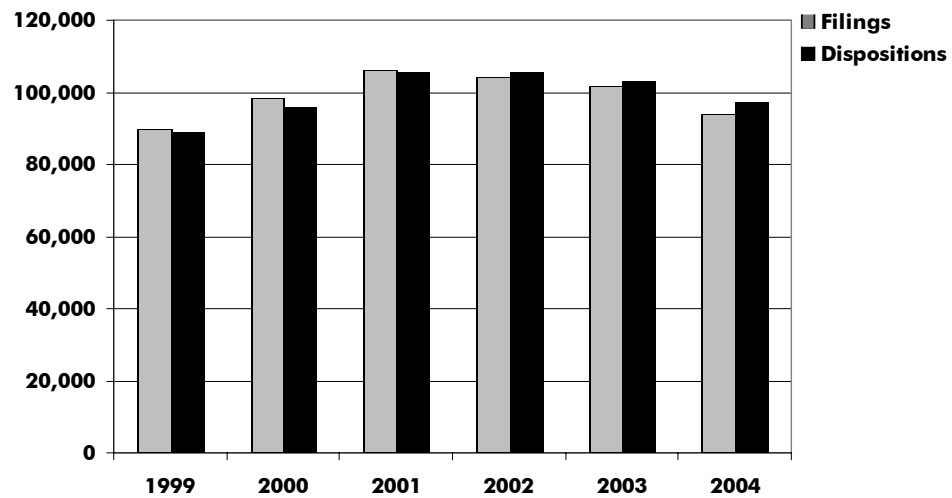
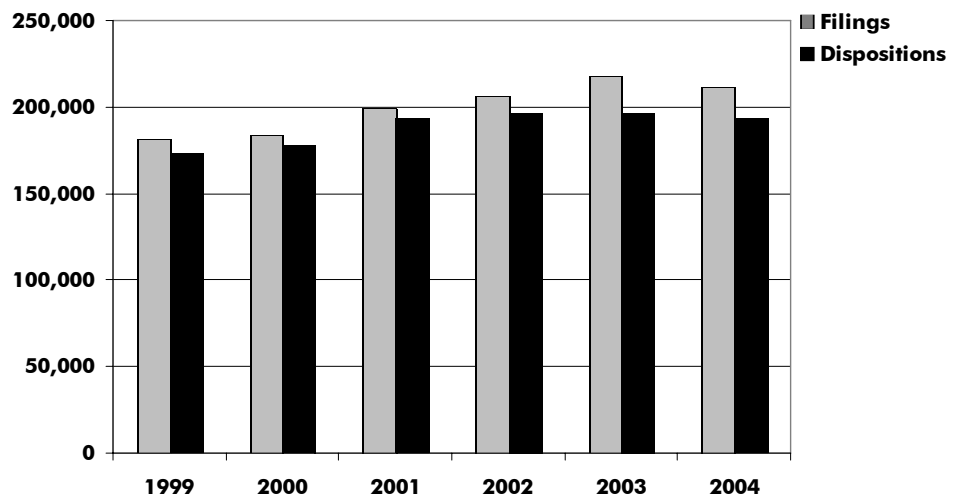
Beginning in 2002, cases removed as inactive were excluded from the dispositions.

For the first time since 1999, general civil cases and summary proceedings filed in district court decreased. In 2004, district courts received 277,855 general civil case filings—20,947 fewer than in 2003. There were 211,213 summary proceedings filed, a decrease of 6,383 from 2003. Dispositions of general civil cases exceeded filings, with 21,466 more dispositions than filings.

Small claims cases continued to decrease from a peak in 2001. In 2004, 93,935 small claims cases were filed; there were 97,233 dispositions.

District Court General Civil Case Filings and Dispositions



District Court Small Claims Case Filings and Dispositions*District Court Summary Proceeding Case Filings and Dispositions*

MUNICIPAL COURTS AND JUDGES

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe (MGP)

Hon. Russell F. Ethridge

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Farms (MGPF)

Hon. Matthew R. Rumora

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Park (MGPP)

Hon. Carl F. Jarboe

Municipal Court of Grosse Pointe Woods (MGPW)

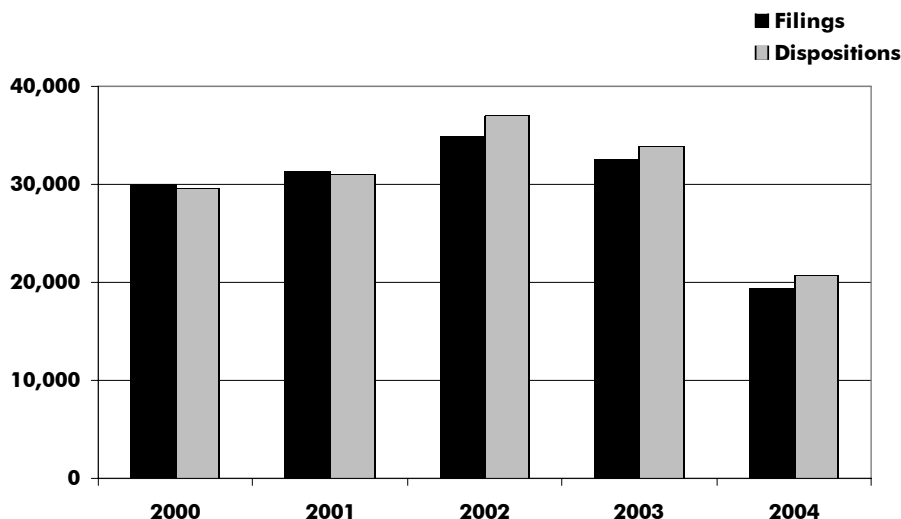
Hon. Lynne A. Pierce

MUNICIPAL COURT FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Filings	32,537	30,027	31,232	34,846	32,533	19,465
Dispositions	32,032	29,537	31,066	37,012	33,905	20,699

On January 1, 2004, the Eastpointe Municipal Court became a district court. The caseload from this court, therefore, is no longer included in this section. As a result, municipal court filings decreased significantly, from 32,533 in 2003 to 19,465 in 2004. Dispositions from municipal courts totaled 20,699.

Municipal Court Filings and Dispositions



Number of Trial Court Judgeships in Michigan

	Circuit Court	Probate Court	District Court	Municipal Court	Total
Region 1	112	22	143	4	281
Region 2	56	27	66	NA	149
Region 3	30	26	30	NA	86
Region 4	19	28	19	NA	66
Statewide	217	103	258	4	582

Circuit Court (as of 1/31/05)

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
C01	2	1	C38	1	3
C02	2	4	C39	2	2
C03	1	61	C40	3	2
C04	2	4	C41	4	2
C05	2	1	C42	3	2
C06	1	19	C43	2	1
C07	1	9	C44	2	2
C08	3	2	C45	2	1
C09	2	5	C46	4	2
C10	3	5	C47	4	1
C11	4	1	C48	2	2
C12	4	1	C49	3	1
C13	4	2	C50	4	1
C14	2	4	C51	3	1
C15	2	1	C52	3	1
C16	1	12	C53	4	1
C17	2	9	C54	3	1
C18	3	3	C55	3	1
C19	4	1	C56	2	2
C20	2	4	C57	4	1
C21	3	2			
C22	1	5			
C23	3	2			
C24	3	1			
C25	4	2			
C26	4	1			
C27	3	2			
C28	4	1			
C29	3	2			
C30	2	7			
C31	1	3			
C32	4	1			
C33	4	1			
C34	3	1			
C35	3	1			
C36	2	2			
C37	2	4			

District Court (as of 1/31/05)

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
D01	1	3	D54B	2	2
D02A	2	2	D55	2	2
D02B	2	1	D56A	2	2
D03A	2	1	D56B	2	1
D03B	2	2	D57	2	2
D04	2	1	D58	2	4
D05	2	5	D59	2	1
D07	2	2	D60	2	4
D08	2	7	D61	2	6
D10	2	4	D62A	2	2
D12	2	4	D62B	2	1
D14A	1	3	D63	2	2
D14B	1	1	D64A	3	1
D15	1	3	D64B	3	1
D16	1	2	D65A	3	1
D17	1	2	D65B	3	1
D18	1	2	D66	3	2
D19	1	3	D67	1	6
D20	1	2	D68	1	5
D21	1	1	D70	3	6
D22	1	1	D71A	3	2
D23	1	2	D71B	3	1
D24	1	2	D72	1	3
D25	1	2	D73A	3	1
D26	1	2	D73B	3	1
D27	1	1	D74	3	3
D28	1	1	D75	3	2
D29	1	1	D76	3	1
D30	1	1	D77	3	1
D31	1	1	D78	3	1
D32A	1	1	D79	3	1
D33	1	3	D80	3	1
D34	1	3	D81	3	1
D35	1	3	D82	3	1
D36	1	31	D83	3	1
D37	1	4	D84	4	1
D38	1	1	D85	4	1
D39	1	3	D86	4	3
D40	1	2	D87	4	1
D41A	1	4	D88	4	1
D41B	1	3	D89	4	1
D42	1	2	D90	4	1
D43	1	3	D91	4	1
D44	1	2	D92	4	1
D45A	1	1	D93	4	1
D45B	1	2	D94	4	1
D46	1	3	D95A	4	1
D47	1	2	D95B	4	1
D48	1	3	D96	4	2
D50	1	4	D97	4	1
D51	1	2	D98	4	1
D52	1	11			
D53	2	3			
D54A	2	5			

Probate Court (as of 1/31/05)

Court	Region	# of Judges	Court	Region	# of Judges
P01	3	1	P63	1	4
P03	2	1	P64	3	1
P04	4	1	P65	3	1
P05	4	1	P66	4	1
P06	3	1	P68	3	1
P07	4	1	P69	4	1
P08	2	1	P70	2	1
P09	3	1	P71	4	1
P10	4	1	P72	3	1
P11	2	2	P73	3	2
P12	2	1	P74	1	2
P13	2	2	P75	2	1
P14	2	1	P76	3	1
P16	4	1	P78	3	1
P17	4	1	P79	3	1
P19	3	1	P80	2	1
P20	4	1	P81	1	2
P21	4	1	P82	1	8
P22	4	1	P83	4	1
P23	2	1	PD17	3	1
P25	1	2	PD18	3	1
P27	4	1	PD5	4	1
P28	4	1	PD6	4	1
P29	3	1	PD7	4	1
P30	2	1			
P31	4	1			
P32	3	1			
P33	2	2			
P34	3	1			
P35	3	1			
P36	4	1			
P37	3	1			
P38	2	1			
P39	2	3			
P40	4	1			
P41	2	4			
P42	4	1			
P43	3	1			
P44	3	1			
P45	4	1			
P46	2	1			
P47	2	1			
P50	1	2			
P51	4	1			
P52	4	1			
P53	3	1			
P55	4	1			
P56	3	1			
P57	4	1			
P58	1	2			
P59	3	1			
P60	4	1			
P61	2	2			
P62	3	1			

Municipal Court (as of 1/31/05)

Court	Region	# of Judges
MGP	1	1
MGPF	1	1
MGPP	1	1
MGPW	1	1



Michigan Supreme Court
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